

Israel Sees Wide Plot in Rabin Assassination



The police taking Ohad Skornik, center, into court Thursday in Tel Aviv.

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Five days after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the police said Thursday that they had arrested two more people for the killing and that they believed the murder was a conspiracy organized by a group of Israelis fired to extremism by Mr. Rabin's determination to trade biblical land for peace.

The police suspicions directly contradict the assertions of the confessed assassin, Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old law student, that he acted alone.

The police also said they uncovered a large cache of weapons that included enough grenades, detonators, explosives and fuses "to make any terror group proud." The weapons were hidden, they said, underneath a yard that served as part of a nursery school run by Mr. Amir's mother at their hotel in Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv.

The arrests of the two new suspects — both apparently young associates of Mr. Amir — brought to five the number of people detained since Mr. Rabin was shot to death minutes after he addressed a huge peace rally in Tel Aviv on Saturday night. The two men are Dror Adani, 26, whom

the police said they suspected of complicity in the conspiracy, and Ohad Skornik, 23, a fellow law student with Mr. Amir at the Bar-Ilan religious university. He was suspected of failing to prevent a crime by reporting what he knew of the alleged plot to the police.

Mr. Amir's brother, Hagai, was arrested soon after the killing and Avishai Raviv, the leader of the far-right group Eyal was arrested Wednesday.

"We believe that there was a conspiracy between a group of persons that had the infrastructure to prepare their aims quite cautiously," said Eric Bar-Chen, a police spokesman.

The group had "some sort of organizational structure," he said, and could turn out to be quite separate from previously known organizations, such as the shadowy Eyal group that Mr. Raviv leads. "It doesn't mean we are talking about an Eyal-organized crime," Mr. Bar-Chen said.

The minister of police, Moshe Shahal, said that "without the infrastructure supplied to him by other persons, it would have been impossible" for Mr. Amir to kill the prime minister. He said the conspirators

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Lubbers Is in Doubt For NATO as U.S. Signals Objections

Allies, Split on Top Candidate, May Have to Start Search Over

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — U.S. objections have thrown into serious doubt the appointment of Ruud Lubbers, the former Dutch prime minister, as NATO's secretary-general and sparked semipublic recriminations between Washington and European capitals about who bungled the normally smooth process of nominating a new civilian head for the alliance.

Diplomats at NATO headquarters said Thursday that the alliance may have to start over in its search for a candidate because the Clinton administration has, in effect, called into question Mr. Lubbers's qualifications for the post.

"He seems to have made a poor impression in Washington because he did not seem really up to speed on the policies involving NATO, particularly the mission in Bosnia," according to an alliance official. Diplomats from several European countries that have publicly backed Mr. Lubbers said that they had been given similar reports by U.S. officials.

"Either he was poorly briefed before he went or else he has lost his edge after being in academic life for a couple of years," another diplomat said.

A decision about the successor to Willy Claes, who was forced to resign as secretary-general last month, had been expected at a meeting Friday of NATO ambassadors, who were anxious to fill the post quickly because of the looming deadlines of the peacekeeping mission to Bosnia.

But officials said that they had no indication that Washington was preparing to relent. The White House press secretary, Michael McCurry, said Thursday that although Mr. Lubbers had been in Washington to talk to high-ranking officials, there was "no consensus" among the 16 members of the Western alliance on his candidacy.

The other formal candidate, former Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen of Denmark, is favored by the Pentagon but stands scant chance of prevailing.

France has said that it will veto Mr. Ellemann-Jensen because of the Danish government's public protests about French nuclear tests. Other European governments are reluctant to see the job go to someone from a country that does not belong to the Western European Union, the defense wing of the European Union.

The United States has reproached its allies for publicly indicating that Mr. Lubbers had the job, while the Europeans are angrily accusing the Clinton administration of high-handed behavior liable to undermine the next secretary-general.

"The Clinton administration kept Claes in the job long after he should decently have gone because Washington liked having a NATO head beholden to Washington, and now the Americans look like they're insisting on having a new man of their own," a European source said.

Despite the diplomatic embarrassment, other European officials acknowledged the importance for the Clinton administration of having a NATO leader who could help inspire confidence in Washington about sending U.S. troops into Bosnia. Even though it is a peacekeeping mission, Congress has major doubts about the risks of U.S. involvement.

In the past, Washington has been content to work behind the scenes as a consensus formed behind a candidate — always a European — but this time the publicity about the process appeared to embarrass the State Department, which feared that it would be accused by the Pentagon and Congress of letting Europeans dictate the choice.

Apparently underestimating the Clinton administration's domestic concerns, France and Britain moved quickly to set a successor to Mr. Claes, initially envisaging Douglas Hurd, the former British foreign secretary.

That would have been a unanimous choice, but Mr. Hurd was reluctant to return to public service, and his departure would mean a by-election liable to weaken the governing Conservative Party's thin majority.

President Jacques Chirac of France was determined to block the chances of Mr. Ellemann-Jensen. On trips to London and then Bonn, he obtained public pledges of support for Mr. Lubbers from Prime Minister John Major, and then from Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

A year ago, Mr. Kohl upset other EU leaders by vetoing the choice of Mr. Lubbers to head the European Commission. Bonn objected to Mr. Lubbers's public reservations about German reunification and judged that he had performed unsteadily during the Dutch presidency of the European Union at the time of the Maastricht treaty. This time, Mr. Kohl set aside his misgivings to accommodate France and the Netherlands.

Old Enemies Confront The Legacy Of Tonkin

By Tim Larimer
New York Times Service

HANOI — In a remarkable meeting of two old adversaries, General Vo Nguyen Giap told Robert S. McNamara, the former U.S. defense secretary, on Thursday that an attack on a U.S. destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin — an incident that led to the first American bombing of the Vietnam War — never occurred.

Mr. McNamara, on his first visit to Vietnam since the war, raised the question about the Tonkin Gulf incident during the one-hour meeting with his former foe.

"To this day," Mr. McNamara said, "I don't know what happened on Aug. 2 and Aug. 4, 1964, in the Tonkin Gulf."

On Aug. 4, General Giap said, "There was absolutely nothing." The incident was a critical milestone in the war. President Lyndon Johnson ordered retaliatory air strikes. And three days later, the U.S. Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which the Johnson and Nixon administrations both used as the authority to escalate the war.

The first attack on Aug. 2 did in fact occur, said General Giap, confirming most historical accounts.

He added that a "local coast guard unit launched the attack" on the U.S. destroyer, the Maddox, which he said had entered North Vietnam's territorial waters. He did not elaborate whether he himself or other higher authorities had ordered the attack or whether the local unit was acting on its own.

The second alleged attack, on Aug. 4, has continued to puzzle war historians. On Aug. 4, in stormy weather, the Maddox reported it was under attack again. But the reliability of that report has always been questioned. Mr. McNamara, for his part, has said that second attack was "probable but not certain."

On Thursday, Mr. McNamara said "This was such a red hot issue, I was determined I was going to put the question to Giap today." After hearing the general's response, Mr. McNamara said he is now "99 and ninety-nine hundredths percent sure it didn't occur."

"Giap is a pretty damned good source," he said. The exchange between the two war strategists highlighted Mr. McNamara's visit with a Council on Foreign Relations delegation. The council has proposed sponsoring a conference to investigate the "missed opportunities" of the war that could have ended the conflict sooner — or avoided it altogether.

"It's an extraordinary thing," Mr. McNamara said in an interview, describing his visit. One of the "interesting points" he said was "the lack of hostility and the willingness to meet and discuss what was in a very real sense a tragedy for both nations." Both he and General Giap, he added, want to explore the misunderstandings that exacerbated the conflict.

The contrast between the two Vietnam

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General Giap leaving the meeting Thursday with Mr. McNamara, who noted the "lack of hostility" in their talks.

For Clinton and Dole et al, A Major Threat Is Sidelined

By R.W. Apple Jr.
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — It was a great day for Bill Clinton and a very good day for Bob Dole, but of course, that was not what was on Colin L. Powell's mind as he made his momentous decision not to seek elective office this year.

"During the book tour," a friend said, "he would get turned on by the crowds, but then he would come home and say, 'It's just not me.' Again and again. He tried, tried, tried to feel the passion, but he didn't."

Last weekend, with the general already leaning strongly against running, the as

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assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel helped solidify the decision, the friend said, "especially for Alma" — although both Powells denied it. But General Powell's wife, Alma, and his three children all eventually voted "no."

General Powell was careful not to rule out the possibility of running for president four years hence. Several associates said they thought a campaign in the year 2000 was possible if not probable.

"The future is the future," the general told reporters.

General Powell may well come under intense pressure to accept the vice-presidential nomination next fall, despite his

disclaimers on Wednesday. If he changed his mind under such pressure, he would not be the first to do so. No one ever made more fervent disclaimers than Lyndon B. Johnson, but when John F. Kennedy turned to him in Los Angeles in the summer of 1960, he yielded.

Jack F. Kemp, the housing secretary in the Bush administration, spoke for many in political Washington when he said that General Powell's decision had left him "more than a little disappointed and leaves America and the GOP more than a little diminished."

General Powell, now an officially announced Republican, promised to work actively in the Republican Party and to seek to broaden its appeal, and it is hard to imagine that he will not be asked to deliver a keynote address or the equivalent at the party's convention in San Diego next summer. That would help to send a more inclusive message than the Republicans sent from Houston in 1992.

Mr. Clinton's aides spent much of the day insisting that General Powell's decision was of no great moment to them or their boss. But of course it mattered. To say otherwise was merely to observe one of the conventions of politics: Never suggest that you are afraid of a rival.

Now Mr. Clinton faces a race against either Mr. Dole, whom he consistently

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AGENDA

Mexican Peso Rebounds From Low

Dow Jones	Trib Index
Up 11.56 4884.23	Up 0.80% 125.40

The Dollar	Thurs. close	previous close
Dfl	1.4113	1.422
Pound	1.579	1.5796
Yen	100.38	102.61
FF	4.867	4.8945

The peso slid to a record low on Thursday but more than regained its lost ground by the end of the session as foreign investors poured into the market to hunt for bargains.

The dollar settled back to close at 7.55 pesos at the end of a roller-coaster session in which it surged as high as a record 8.30 pesos. It had closed on Wednesday at 7.75 pesos.

The major Mexican stock exchange index rose by 3.43 percent. (Page 13)

Serbia Embargo to Be Partly Lifted

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The economic embargo against Serbia will be partly lifted to allow natural gas supplies from Russia following an agreement at the Bosnia peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, the State Department spokesman said Thursday.

The spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said the presidents of Bosnia and Serbia, who are taking part in the talks, requested the supply of domestic gas be turned on "as

a humanitarian exception" to the embargo.

Mr. Burns said the United Nations committee that oversees the sanctions would meet later Thursday to consider the issue. UN-imposed restrictions on air traffic and sporting contacts were lifted earlier.

He said the gas embargo would be provisionally lifted for two months.

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International Classified

Thai King's a Figurehead, but One With New Teeth

By Philip Shenon
New York Times Service

BANGKOK — His title is as long as it is exalted: Great King of Siam, the Chief Protector, Great Strength of the Land, Incomparable Power, the Most Renowned of the Mahidol Family and Refuge of the People.

But as King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand has reminded his devoted subjects, he is also a citizen of this troubled Asian land — one with a right to speak his mind when something is wrong.

Increasingly, the king, 67, who is the world's longest-serving living monarch and who is about to lead the nation in celebration of his 50th year on the throne, is doing just that: speaking up.

"The king has a right to make political remarks," he

said in justifying a rare royal intervention into politics several weeks ago. "He is a Thai citizen and has his rights and freedoms under the constitution. Each of you is under the constitution, and so is the king. I am using my freedom under the constitution."

Then he let the politicians have it. At a gathering of ambassadors, he reprimanded the civilian government of Prime Minister Banham Silpa-archa, suggesting that it was failing to deal with a traffic crisis that is threatening to halt transport around Bangkok, the capital, and has smothered the city beneath a perpetual rust-colored haze.

The politicians, he said, "keep talking, talking, talking, and they keep opposing each other."

Jaws dropped as the king spoke, so rare is that sort of criticism from the traditionally reticent monarch. And such is his influence among his subjects that Mr. Banham

is widely reported to have panicked when he heard about the king's remarks, calling his advisers into emergency session to reassess his traffic policy.

Although King Bhumibol is a constitutional monarch with few clearly defined powers, he is without doubt the most beloved figure in Thailand, treated with god-like reverence by most of his 58 million subjects.

"He is the unifying force of the Thai society," said Suchit Bumbongkarn, a prominent political scientist. "He is the one who is a check on the system. He can tell us whether we are going in the right direction or the wrong direction. He is the standard of morality, of righteousness."

The king spends most of his time overseeing hundreds

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China Amasses \$70 Billion in Foreign Money

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — Bolstered by surging exports, China's foreign exchange reserves have climbed to \$70 billion, according to government figures, and now trail close behind the foreign exchange reserves of Germany and the United States.

Over the past year, China's reserves have doubled and have jumped from 11th place to a virtual tie for fifth in the world, according to figures from the International Monetary Fund.

China's reserves now surpass the reserves of Britain, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Hong Kong. Only Japan and Taiwan, ranked first and second in reserve holdings, boast substantially larger foreign exchange reserves.

The growth in China's foreign exchange reserves reflects the country's rising economic power, the high rate of foreign investment and China's rapidly expanding exports.

In the first eight months of this year, China's exports topped \$94 billion; they are likely to reach \$150 billion by the end of the year, according to investment bank economists in Hong Kong.

Government figures put economic growth this year at just over 10 percent, the average rate of growth since 1979. The country is attracting more than half of the foreign capital investment made in the entire developing world.

But at the same time, the rise in China's foreign exchange reserves reflects the Communist government's conservative approach to finance and government anxieties about potential potholes in China's road to economic modernization. Government economists say that, despite pressing development needs, China has chosen to keep large foreign exchange reserves because of worries about its nearly \$100 billion worth of foreign debt, potential increases in grain and oil imports, currency stability and the transition in Hong Kong in 1997.

But one economist said, "Ultimately it doesn't do any good to have \$70 billion sitting in the bank. It doesn't do any good. You should have enough to make people feel secure and the rest should be doing something productive."

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The UN Rights Mission/ Finn Takes Up the Challenge

A Maverick Wades Into Ex-Yugoslavia's Miasma

By Nora Boustany
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It was cold and the snow was taller than Elisabeth Rehn when the 8-year-old stood stiffly to honor young men who had come back in coffins to the village of Mantala on the Finnish shore. When her father would return home on furlough from the war, she could not hold back her tears. She couldn't understand then why she cried when she wanted to be happy.

Mrs. Rehn, who went on to become Finland's defense minister, a member of the European Parliament and now a human rights investigator for the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia, has never forgotten how fast her heart was beating.

"Just the feeling that something is not as it should be" is how she describes it. Anchored in her conscience is a resolve that "it is very important that one should do something for those who are suffering."

Mrs. Rehn, 60, recently spent a week in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is ravaged by the worst fighting and atrocities in Europe since World War II. She kicked a ball with children who smile with sad eyes, children who have had to give up their kindergartens and soccer fields to play in graveyards.

And she listened to tales of suffering. A paralyzed woman in her 70s, who had been left behind in Krajina, Croatia, because she could not flee, showed Mrs. Rehn a bullet hole in her window. Two Croatian soldiers came shouting. "Do you have guns? Open the door, where is your son?" she told Mrs. Rehn. They shot when she failed to get up, then they stormed in and dragged her across the floor. The woman took Mrs. Rehn's face in her frail hands and whispered that Mrs. Rehn would make a difference with her reports to the world.

Along the road, a 75-year-old man told of how he was forced to run naked at gunpoint for 4½ miles (7 kilometers) with his hands bound behind his back.

"I got angry and I felt ashamed. I was ashamed because I was European," Mrs. Rehn said. "The children will survive, of course, but after a long life, these old people did everything right and now they see this happening to them. Mrs. Rehn looks outside the window of the limousine taking her to Airlie, Virginia, where she began a U.S. speaking tour last week.

She will file her first report on Nov. 24 to the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights; nine people are helping her compile the information.

She made it clear to everyone she met in Yugoslavia, even those who refused to receive her predecessor, that she had no friends and no enemies and no favorites. "It is up to them, of course," she said. "If they want to commit crimes against humanity, then I have to report on that."

When the UN Commission on Human Rights told her she had been selected for the job, Mrs. Rehn felt weak in the knees. Before she responded, she thought about her lifelong commitments, her ideals. "You know, if you have been talking about human rights, the dignity of men and women and the rights of the child," she said, "and you refuse the real possibility to do something about it because it is too difficult, you are not at all credible. So I said O.K. Of course, I can't be sure that writing reports, trying to explain and tell will be enough. But I am very much of a realist and I plan to bother the peace negotiators," she vows.

While Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian leaders meet in Dayton, Ohio, to settle the disputed territories, she will push for the protection of human rights as a condition for settlement at the negotiating table. She has spoken with the European negotiator Carl Bildt and is planning to contact Assistant Secretary of State Richard C. Holbrooke, the chief U.S. negotiator.

In between the speaking engagements, meetings at the United Nations in New York and her report deadline, she will return to Brussels to resume her duties as a member of the European Parliament.

Mrs. Rehn is a maverick by Finnish standards, and she has not shied away from challenging her own political party's ideas or plunging into daredevil missions. As defense minister, she once drove her generals into a flustered frenzy when she proposed crashing their sauna gab sessions. Seeing their reaction, she asked: "Do you have something to hide?" Her femininity has not kept her from driving snow scooters on her 60th birthday or looping and flying upside down with the Blue Angels show pilots.

Mrs. Rehn was catapulted from her household, her children's schooling and husband's furniture business to Finland's Parliament when she beat 27 contenders for her seat in the late 1970s. She moved on to become her country's longest-serving defense minister, four and a half years.

"She is a soft-looking and a soft-spoken person, but she has will power, an enormous curiosity and a capacity to digest what she learns about areas where she has never treaded," said a former aide. There is steel inside the packaging and a burning desire to outdo the



For Elisabeth Rehn, 'It is important to do something for those who are suffering.'

disappointed men she leaves behind her, one aide explains. "And she is admired for that," another adds.

Mrs. Rehn's rivals in her minority, liberal-centerist Swedish People's Party had thought they could outmaneuver her by naming her defense minister for an interim period in 1990. "They thought nothing serious can happen in eight months if we name a woman as defense minister," she says. "They thought I would not succeed, they would get rid of me. I got quite popular."

She added: "Absolutely everything happened. Desert Storm, the Soviet Union collapsed, the Baltics gained independence, and I renewed the thinking in the country about defense. No one could avoid me anymore."

She built bridges with the international community. She became friends with her American and Russian counterparts. She has played host to former U.S. defense secretary, Dick Cheney, and his wife, Lynne, in Lapland.

She used her persuasiveness to purchase U.S. F/A-18 fighter planes in 1991. The \$4

billion order over 10 years amounted to twice Finland's annual defense budget at the time.

In presidential elections last year, she finished second, with 46 percent of the national vote.

She was leading the race, in fact, until she was asked during a televised interview whether anyone had the intellectual right to doubt that Jesus existed. She said yes. Her faith was questioned and her blunt analysis became scandalous front page news. Her aides said she had walked into a trap.

Mrs. Rehn will not say whether she will run again, but she is a survivor. She's had a brush or two with death, including a miraculous escape during a Cessna plane crash. She suffered two fractures in her back. She has also dealt with intestinal cancer. It was eradicated.

"I am a fatalist," she said. "Someone told me when I was appointed rapporteur that the fact that I survived this serious illness and the crash had a meaning. There was a mission in my life now. Perhaps it is so. It was not my turn to go."

Rehn Steels Herself For Equal Disdain

Elisabeth Rehn, special rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights for the former Yugoslavia, spoke in Washington recently to Brian Knowlton of the International Herald Tribune.

Q. What should the human rights priorities be for the Bosnian peace talks in Dayton, Ohio?

A. First, free and safe access for those refugees who really want to return — and not everybody wants to return. I consider the situation of the POWs quite important. There should be fair exchanges, supervised by the Red Cross.

And I'm especially concerned about the Banja Luka situation. That is something that must not, cannot, lead to anything like Srebrenica. There is, absolutely, a risk that something like this could happen.

Q. Some people say Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, is a war criminal and should have been barred from Dayton.

A. Perhaps it's better for me not to mention particular people now because it's very important for me to be received in the future by all parties. My predecessor, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, was denied access to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to Pale. He had to write his reports in the airport, as someone nastily put it. If I do my job right, someone said, I will be equally hated by everyone.

Q. Is there a formal channel for you to have input in Dayton?

A. I don't have any specific role, and that was something that frustrated Mazowiecki, very much — that whatever he reported, nothing happened. I believe I have a much better chance of succeeding than he had, in part because he started from zero and I can build on his marvelous work.

Q. There was some feeling the details of the Srebrenica massacre came out too slowly from the UN. Do you agree?

A. Absolutely. Reports should come very quickly.

Q. Were the Dutch peacekeepers at fault for what happened in Srebrenica, or was it beyond their control?

A. This whole thing with the safe havens was a disaster. If such things are to be created, they should be protected. The Dutch didn't get the air protection they asked for. And it's obvious that the command was not efficient. I can't put blame on the individual soldiers. It's easy to sit in your comfortable chair in front of the television screen watching those miserable things happening and have absolutely the right opinion on how you should behave. But when you are there, you are quite alone. Even a soldier has a right to be a little bit afraid.

Q. When the war's over and all the facts come out, do you think we will learn of many more massacres we don't yet know about?

A. Unfortunately, yes, and that will be my mission, to try to find out. I told the Bosnian Serb authorities in Pale that sooner or later these things are bound to come to the surface, what really happened, and it would be better for you that they come out sooner. That way we can look forward instead of back.

Q. You will focus as well on accounting for the missing?

A. Mothers of missing people came to me in Vukovar with a list of 2,000 names and asked me to forward it to the Serbian authorities. They don't have revenge in mind. They only want to know what happened to their husband or their son.

A Stalin Museum for the Worshipful

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

GORI, Georgia — Time has stopped in the birthplace of Joseph Stalin. Perhaps the hands of the clock are still in his grasp, for the mighty forces of change that have swept through his Soviet empire have yet to penetrate the citadel of his memory.

In the late 1980s, as glasnost and perestroika began to lay bare the bloodiest of Stalin's excesses, there was talk of correcting the record at the Stalin State Museum here. There was talk of acknowledging some of Stalin's victims. As recently as two years ago, plans were being laid for a museum souvenir shop that would sell Stalin memorabilia in keeping with the free-market mood of the times.

But like so many things across the vast and timeless former Soviet landscape, inertia prevailed. At the Stalin Museum, nothing much happened. Indeed, the only difference is that the museum's worshipful exhibits, removed for safekeeping to Austria during years of post-Soviet civil strife in Georgia, have now been put back on display at a time when more and more people are talking nostalgically about the good old days under communism.

Stalin's boyhood home, a single-room cabin where he was born Josef Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili, remains un-

changed under the pavilion built in 1937 to protect it. The adjacent baroque museum was opened in 1957 — Stalin died in 1953 — and the exhibits were updated in 1979. Stalin's personal armored railroad car, with its pre-Revolution mahogany trim, luxurious compartments and extra set of wheels, remains parked on the grounds.

'People are nostalgic about this period; they come here and think it was not that bad.'

But it is inside the museum that a visitor finds time at a standstill, the cult of personality still fresh.

Young Georgian schoolchildren are paraded through the halls, but what they see, the story of Stalin's life, is virtually the same display of Soviet days. It is devoid of criticism, bereft of truth about Stalin's millions of victims, his brutal collectivization of farms, his purges, his prison camps. They just disappear.

Depicting Stalin as a man of culture, one exhibit explains how he took an interest in the translation of a famous Georgian poem, "Knight in a Tiger's Skin," into Russian. Stalin made notes in the margins of the translated copy, which is displayed under glass. The year was 1937, but there is no mention of the poets and writers Stalin sent to the camps and to their deaths that same year.

Another exhibit deals with the period of Soviet agricultural collectivization. A photo depicts an 11-year-old girl, Mam-

laka Nakhangova, receiving an award from Stalin for picking cotton. Another shows a beaming woman tractor driver. But there is no word about his brutal suppression of the prosperous pre-Soviet peasants known as kulaks or of the millions of people who died in the subsequent famine.

Stalin's role in the Bolshevik Revolution and the years immediately after is portrayed as second in importance only to that of Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state. But there is hardly a mention, and not a single photograph, of Leon Trotsky, a central figure in the revolution, who was forced into exile and murdered in 1940 by Stalin's agents.

The onset of World War II is depicted with photos of brave Soviet soldiers rushing to the front. Nothing is said about the secret prewar protocols between Hitler and Stalin that divided up Poland and the Baltic states, or of Stalin's panic as Nazi troops neared Moscow in 1941, or of his purges a few years earlier that wiped out a generation of army officers.

Nor is there a word about the Great Terror — the arrests, torture and executions of suspect Communist Party officials and others in the 1930s. Even the display covering Stalin's personal life manages to skip over unpleasant details such as the suicide of his second wife, Nadezhda.

Namu Jojishvili, a guide at the museum for 17 years, said that when the exhibits were removed for safekeeping in 1991, "we talked about making changes in the history of the 1930s, but nothing has been changed so far." She took a pointer and showed a visitor the one critical item on display in the entire museum: the text of

Lenin's famous warning to his colleagues, dictated in 1922, two years before his death, against Stalin's having "unlimited power in his hands."

Miss Jojishvili is not apologetic. "We think he was a great politician, and people should know it," she said. "We respect him. He didn't do anything for Georgia in particular; he harmed many and did good to others. People are nostalgic about this period; they come here and think it was not that bad."

Zhu Zhuna Khinchikashvili, who as the museum's "scientific secretary" is responsible for verifying information in the displays, acknowledged that some of Stalin's victims were later "rehabilitated," but she said the museum was not prepared to document that just yet.

"There were many real enemies in 1937, not just innocent people," she said. "We want to collect objective information."

The museum is selling one souvenir, however — a picture pamphlet for about 50 cents. The pamphlet includes a sentence that reads: "During J.V. Stalin's period in office, especially in the second half of the '30s, blatant violations of the law, resulting in massive unfounded repressions, took place in the Soviet Union."

It does not say who carried them out.

Correction

Because of a transmission error, the number of Chinese works of art from a single owner collection sold by Sotheby's in Hong Kong on Oct. 31 was incorrectly given in the Nov. 4-5 issue. The correct figure is 16.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Strikes Disrupt 3 European Airlines

PARIS (AFP) — Strikes disrupted flights on three major European airlines Thursday, with workers for Air France, Iberia and Scandinavian Airlines System taking action over a variety of grievances.

In Paris, the first day of a 72-hour strike by cabin crew cut Air France services by 20 percent Thursday, while 30 percent of flights by domestic carrier Air Inter were canceled, officials said. Meanwhile pilots of the Spanish carrier Iberia started a two-day stoppage, which the company said would mean cancellation of 60 percent of its flights on Thursday, or 247 out of a total of 424. In Stockholm, SAS said a strike by cabin staff, also due to last two days, would mean that 50 percent of intra-European flights, affecting an estimated 15,000 people, would have to be canceled.

Eurotunnel to Reduce Franc Rates

PARIS (AFP) — Eurotunnel, which operates the Channel tunnel from Calais, France, to Dover, England, will reduce return fares in French francs for automobiles slightly next year but prices in pounds will rise by 1 percent, the company said on Thursday.

Meanwhile, a study by a former consultant to the company implied that salvation for the deeply indebted company lies in an aggressive fare policy to undercut ferry companies' prices. The return fare over five days for cars carried by trains running beneath the Channel would range from 650 francs to 1,350 francs, or about £84 to £173, a spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said. The company is negotiating with bankers in order to remain solvent.

Breathing could be hazardous to health in parts of Hong Kong on Friday, with the air pollution index reaching very high levels, especially in areas with heavy construction, the Environmental Protection Department said Thursday. (APF)

A small regional carrier will be challenging Alitalia on the profitable Rome-Milan route, offering five round-trip flights daily at a price 20 percent lower than the national carrier, Air One, which until now offered service only between Milan and a handful of southern cities, will begin service Nov. 23, the airline announced Thursday. (AP)

Tourist arrivals to Singapore grew slowly by 3.6 percent from a year ago to 688,484 in August, as the number of visitors from Southeast Asia and other regions declined, officials said Thursday. (APF)

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THE AMERICAS

Second-Guessing on Powell

Decision Met With Elation and Deflation

By Steven A. Holmes
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Early Wednesday morning, Joan Lawrence, a Republican in the Ohio House of Representatives, put the finishing touches on a letter to Colin L. Powell.

"I can imagine little that would do more for this nation than to have you become president of the United States," she wrote. "Please join the fray for the Republican nomination for president."

A few hours later, as she returned to her office from a legislative session, she got a call from a friend who had seen General Powell on television saying that he would not run.

"I'm very disappointed," Ms. Lawrence said. "I had myself very up for the idea."

At shortly after 3 P.M. on Wednesday the sound of air leaking out of the body politic could be heard in Washington and throughout the country. For many — notably ardent conservatives and announced Republican candidates — it was a sigh of relief that General Powell, who was leading in many polls, had decided not to seek the party's nomination.

But for many others, it was a deep breath of disappointment.

For them, a moment had been lost, a moment of importance for the country, for history, for the Republican Party, for race relations, for voter enthusiasm and even for media interest in the campaign.

To be sure, many said they understood General Powell's reasons for deciding not to run: his concern for his family's privacy and his conclusion that he lacked the necessary passion for a grueling political campaign. But their understanding was colored by regret.

"It's a great tragedy," said Curtis B. Gans, director of the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate. "The public wants a better set of choices than it is likely to have next year. Right now, you're looking at an election in which you may have some very important issues, but will probably have standard-bearers who are not held in high esteem by the public and who don't inspire much passion in the electorate."

"Bummer, bummer, bummer," said Kenneth L. Adelman, former head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in the Reagan administration, and a personal friend. "He had a unique opportunity to fulfill a unique function for the country."

Regret in not having General Powell in the race is by no means universal. Last week, a group of conservatives held a news conference at which they denigrated General Powell's military record and criticized him for supporting abortion rights and some race-based preference programs.

Some of them expressed pleasure in General Powell's decision, even as they insisted he could not have won the Republican nomination anyway.

"I continue to believe his views are not the winning formula for the Republican Party and I think his candidacy would have ended up lessening his stature because that's the nature of American politics," said Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council, a conservative public policy organization.

Over and over, those who were disheartened by General Powell's withdrawal kept returning to the issue of race. As a black man with decidedly working-class roots, General Powell had become a vessel into which many blacks and whites poured their hopes for healing of the country's vexing racial divide.

Many blacks described him as Jackie Robinson writ large, someone who could break the



General Powell with his wife, Alma, following his decision to stay clear of the '96 race.

color barrier at the highest possible level.

"There has never been an African-American who seems to have enjoyed the broad band of support across the entire electorate, and therefore had a

shot at being elected president," said Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League. "It's unclear when an African-American will rise to that stature again."

Jesse Jackson, who sought to become the first black Democratic nominee for president in 1988, said he was disappointed that General Powell had not entered the race. "He lifted the tone of the campaign," he said.

Praise For Powell, and a Boost for Republican Candidates



Senator Bob Dole "I am pleased that General Powell has found a home in the Republican party and I will actively seek his advice and counsel as we work to bring our people together to broaden the appeal of our party and move our nation forward."

Lamar Alexander, former governor "Colin Powell would have been a formidable competitor and his decision clears the field. We now know who the candidates for the Republican nomination will actually be, and it will quickly become a race between Bob Dole and me."

Senator Phil Gramm "With General Powell deciding not to run, the field is set and the choice is between Bob Dole and me - and that's the choice I have always wanted from the very beginning."

Pat Buchanan, political commentator "I don't think Colin Powell was a shoo-in for the nomination at all. I respect the general's decision. I think we ought to welcome him into the party, but we're going to remain a conservative party."

Senator Arlen Specter "I was sorry to hear of Colin Powell's decision. It was an historic opportunity to broaden the base of the party. So far, the so-called moderates have been dispirited and unwilling to take a stand. Colin Powell had the prospect of really motivating that group."

Steve Forbes, publisher "Even though he has decided against running for president, this does not mean the end of General Powell's role in American public life. We know that he will continue to play a key role in shaping America's future."

For a Brevity of Pundits, Just Wishful Thinking

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The pundits tried mightily to entice Colin L. Powell into the race. The pundits said he was running. The pundits were wrong.

Sam Donaldson of ABC News, one of the many big-name journalists who were both predicting and encouraging a Powell bid for the White House, dropped off a note at the retired general's home in Virginia, hoping for an interview. General Powell's wife, Alma, would not let him in.

"As someone who's been predicting all these weeks that he would run, I'm disappointed," Mr. Donaldson told Mrs. Powell. "But on the other hand, it's your life and not mine."

"That's right," she replied. Mr. Donaldson had plenty of company in declaring that General Powell would take the plunge: Tim Russert, NBC's top political man; Jack Germond of the Baltimore Sun; David Broder of The Washington Post; the columnists Carl Rowan, Charles Krauthammer, Evan Thomas and others.

"I just thought being 58 and having the opportunity to be the first African-American elected president would be irresistible," Mr. Russert said.

General Powell's decision not to run caps an extraordinary few months in which the media often seemed to be leading an effort to draft him. Time, Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report ran a half-dozen cover stories with such headlines as "Can Colin Powell Save America?" Commentators from William Kristol, the conservative publisher of the *Standpoint*, to William Greider, the liberal *Rolling Stone* writer, had praise for a Powell candidacy.

A Chink in the Republicans' Armor

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — While the midterm election results around the country were hardly proof of a Democratic revival, they shattered the sense of invincibility among Republicans that has grown in the three years since President Bill Clinton's election.

By staving off Republican efforts to take over the legislatures in Virginia and Maine and the governorship of Kentucky, Democrats gave themselves more than a little hope that the party was not battered beyond redemption as the 1996 presidential campaign was about to start.

On a tactical level, the results Tuesday are bound to energize the Democrats, perhaps enabling them to overcome a lackluster fund-raising season and

attract stronger candidates as a parade of veteran Democrats marches to retirement.

But more significant, the results handed the Republicans their first stinging news in three years: The party had pumped far more money into the races than Democrats had, and many Republicans had sought to turn the contests into a referendum on Newt Gingrich and the House speaker's performance since the party captured control of Congress last fall.

Indeed, Republicans got a sobering reminder from the electorate that had been borne out in polls for months: Perhaps their agenda on Capitol Hill — and the Georgian congressman who personifies it — is not so popular after all.

Kevin Phillips, a prominent Republican analyst, said: "This is very auspicious for the Democrats. It suggests that in

1996 they can start turning the tables, not entirely in reaction to Bill Clinton's Washington but to Newt Gingrich's Washington."

Republicans might have been the victim of their own outsized expectations.

They had registered mostly triumphs since Mr. Clinton's election, first in a special election for a Senate seat in Georgia in 1992; then the governorships of Virginia and New Jersey in 1993 and the Republican ascendancy in Congress last year.

"This is an indication that the whole Republican revolution may be in trouble," said Richard G. Niemi, a political science professor at the University of Rochester who specializes in voting trends. "It certainly raises questions about the Republican sweep of '94 and the extent to which Republicans can expect to become even more strongly entrenched in '96."

There was but one upbeat note for the Republicans amid the scattered setbacks: Governor Kirk Fordice of Mississippi, as expected, easily defeated Dick Molpus, a Democrat who is the Mississippi secretary of state. But every other Republican on the statewide ballot lost.

Coupled with the defeats elsewhere, many Republicans are now sounding like Democrats did last year after losing control of Congress.

"The Republican Party right now is a party with a message and a vision but without a messenger," said John McLaughlin, a Republican pollster. "The Republicans last year experienced a watershed, once-in-a-lifetime victory. Now, we're back to basic politics."

In explaining the losses, many Republicans spoke not of the Democrats but of Mr. Gingrich.

The results in Virginia, for instance, were not only disappointing to the party nationally, but were a serious setback for Governor George F. Allen, who is sometimes referred to in Richmond as "Baby Newt." Through commercials and relentless campaigning, Mr. Allen and the national party sought to make the campaign a test of his first year in office, and on Mr. Gingrich.

"I think he's not only a lame duck, but a dead duck," Jong O. Ra, a political science professor at Hollins College said of Mr. Allen. "And he asked for it. He stuck his neck way out."

But Haley Barbour, the Republican national chairman, said the trends still favored Republicans. "Things have been so bad for the Democrats, they have a new standard for success," he said.

Foreigners Win a Free Speech Case

'Landmark' Ruling Challenges McCarran-Walter Act

By Kenneth B. Noble
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — In a case fraught with implications for international relations and constitutional law, a federal appeals court has ruled that foreigners in the United States have the same right to free speech as American citizens.

Civil liberties lawyers called the ruling perhaps the most significant challenge to date of the 43-year-old McCarran-Walter Act, which was passed at a time of great public concern over communism, a concern that was nurtured by Senator Joseph McCarthy. Over the years the law has been used to bar several prominent Marxist authors and intellectual dissidents from visiting the United States.

"It's a landmark decision," said Mark Rosenbaum, legal director of the Los Angeles office of the American Civil Liberties Union. "It means that when the constitution talks about rights for all people, it means what it says. There's not a visa check on the First Amendment."

David Cole, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center and a lawyer with the Center for Constitutional Rights, who argued the case on

appeal, said: "This is a great day for all immigrants in this country. The court's decision means that immigrants can speak and associate as freely as citizens and that they need not fear deportation for their political views."

The ruling by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit arose from the case of seven Palestinians and a Kenyan who were arrested in 1987 at gunpoint in Southern California and ordered deported by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The defendants were originally charged with subversion under a section of the 1952 McCarran-Walter Immigration Act that prohibits foreigners in the United States from promoting world communism.

The immigration service based the decision on the grounds that the eight supported the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist, hard-line faction of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

All eight are avowed Palestinian nationalists but deny being members of the Popular Front. After their 1987 arrest, they were taken into custody by the immigration service and detained in maximum security for

nearly three weeks. Their arrests sparked protests that the Reagan administration was using the guise of national security interests, and employing a McCarthy-era law, as a pretext to deport people with no history of violent acts.

In its original complaint, the government argued that each defendant belonged to "an organization that causes to be written, circulated, distributed, published or displayed, written or printed matter advocating or teaching economic, international and governmental doctrines of world communism."

The defendants argued that they were being selectively prosecuted. In court documents, they noted, for example, that the government did not seek to deport other similarly situated aliens aligned with organizations the United States supported, like the Nicaraguan contras and the Afghan mujahidin.

The ruling rejected in the broadest terms the immigration service's efforts to deport the eight, saying "because we are a nation founded by immigrants, the First Amendment free speech provisions are especially relevant to our attitude toward current immigrants who are a part of our community."

POLITICAL NOTES

Panetta Sees Budget 'Terrorism'

WASHINGTON — With the federal government moving toward possible shutdown, the White House chief of staff, Leon E. Panetta, criticized Republican budget tactics on Thursday as "a form of terrorism."

Mr. Panetta said more than 800,000 government workers faced layoff and the country would be at the brink of default if Republicans continued to push their agenda as a condition for passing short-term spending and debt measures.

"Don't put a gun to the head of the president, the head of the country, and say: 'You don't accept our priorities, you don't accept what we want to do to Medicare and Medicaid, what we want to do to education, we're going to blow you apart,'" Mr. Panetta said at a White House briefing. "That's a form of terrorism. We're not going to accept that."

The House speaker, Newt Gingrich, called the remarks "just bizarre" and said: "We're not going to allow him to do whatever he wants."

Congress must produce legislation by midnight Monday to keep the government running and also must increase the debt ceiling to avoid a loan default. (Reuters)

Gingrich Is Feeling Shunned

WASHINGTON — Newt Gingrich infuriated the White House on Thursday by complaining about his treatment on Air Force One during the flight to Israel for the funeral of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Gingrich, the House speaker, grumbled that he "didn't talk to the president at all on the plane," and his spokesman implied that President Bill Clinton had missed a chance to try to solve the budget impasse with Congress.

Mr. Gingrich and the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, flew with Mr. Clinton and two former presidents, Jimmy Carter and George Bush, to Mr. Rabin's funeral in Jerusalem on Monday.

A Gingrich spokesman, Tony Blankley, attacked Mr. Clinton for not using the flight to tackle the budget impasse.

"The three guys most likely to be able to make some progress in solving that were on same plane for 26 hours and one would have thought that if the president had any interest in finding common ground, he might have been able to find it on Air Force One," Mr. Blankley said.

The griping prompted an angry reprimand from the White House spokesman, Michael McCurry, who said all members of the U.S. funeral delegation were treated with the "utmost respect."

"This thing smacks of silliness," he said. "And I think it's also a little bit offensive when you consider the purpose of that trip, which was to go to a funeral to mourn a foreign leader." (Reuters)

Jackson Reconsiders Running

WASHINGTON — Jesse Jackson, a two-time presidential candidate, said Thursday that he was thinking anew about running in 1996 now that Colin L. Powell has ruled out a potential White House bid.

Less than 24 hours after General Powell announced he would not run, Mr. Jackson said at a news conference that he had met with his advisers over the last few days to "assess the landscape."

"I still have the fire in my belly and clear vision in my head about what a president ought to do to make the nation better," said the founder of the National Rainbow Coalition and presidential candidate of 1984 and 1988.

Mr. Jackson said it was premature to say when he would reach a decision. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Lloyd M. Cutler, the former White House counsel, appearing before the Senate Whitewater Committee after having been accused by Senate Republicans of misrepresenting the conclusions of a Whitewater ethics inquiry when he suggested that the investigation had cleared the White House of all wrongdoing: "I may have gone too far when I testified before this committee." (AP)

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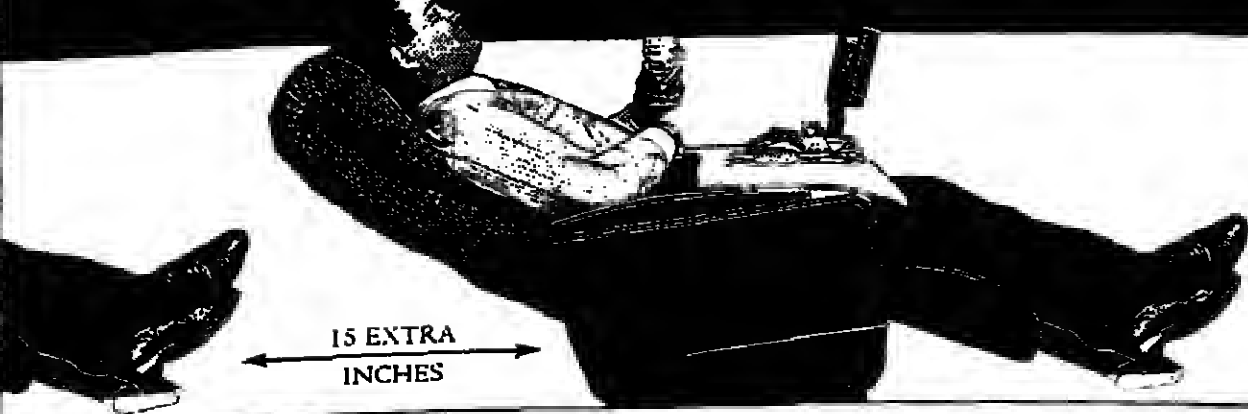
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EUROPE

De Gaulle's Spirit Still Dominates

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — On the 25th anniversary of General Charles de Gaulle's death Thursday, France remembered the man who made it the modern nation it is: proud, independent, and determined to build a united Europe either in its own image or not at all.

President Jacques Chirac, an avowed Gaullist, made the pilgrimage to Colombey-les-deux-Eglises, the eastern French village where de Gaulle died on Nov. 9, 1970, to lay a tricolored wreath on his grave, and Gaullists everywhere called on the French to live up to the vision laid out for them by The General. (There will always be only one, for the faithful.)

De Gaulle's nationalistic spirit still dominates European debate, not only in his own country but in Germany, the foe from whom he rescued French self-respect as leader of the French Resistance during World War II and with whom he carried out a historic reconciliation with Konrad Adenauer.

In recent weeks, some politicians in Germany have been sounding almost Gaullist about the issue that could make or break the movement toward greater European unity between now and 1999: the creation of a common European currency.

The French say they want one because it will make Europe less vulnerable than it is now to fluctuations in the value of the dollar. The Germans profess they want the same thing, but their currency already gives them that protection. Both views are focused on national interest, in classic Gaullist fashion.

De Gaulle's vision was not about making the proud and ancient European nation-states fit into a federal mold, but about the cultural survival of France, and Europe, in the face of a global "Anglo-Saxon" culture that he and all French presidents since have resisted.

"The French need to be proud of France; otherwise, they fall into mediocrity, they quarrel, they head for the bistrot," he told his aide Alain Peyrefitte.

The nuclear force de frappe that de Gaulle built, he told Mr. Peyrefitte, was not just there to discourage aggression. "It is there just as much to deter an



De Gaulle's grandson Jean, Mr. Chirac, and the general's son Philippe at the ceremony.

abusive protector." More seriously, he questioned whether America would be ready to risk nuclear destruction to save Europe from attack. These days, Europeans are thinking anew about how to provide for a stronger defense themselves.

And, unimaginable in de Gaulle's day, Britain is France's staunchest supporter on the issue of French nuclear testing.

French and British diplomats agree that France wants better relations with Britain to counterbalance Germany's increased weight since reunification in 1990. European Union leaders,

including Chancellor Helmut Kohl, hoped then that monetary union would bind Germany more closely to the common European enterprise. Except for Mr. Kohl, German politicians of all parties seem nowadays to be growing more skeptical, calling for more stringent anti-inflationary monetary requirements on would-be participants, meaning mostly their Gallic neighbors.

Mr. Chirac recently renewed his vows to meet the requirements laid down in the European Union treaty, but the Gaullist president of the French Parliament, Philippe Séguin,

wrote in a tribute to de Gaulle in the daily Le Figaro: "To be Gaullist today is to be resolutely in support of a European Europe, i.e., for a common currency that belongs to the people and not just to central bankers, an army that could defend the liberty of the continent if necessary instead of just parading, and a union of states capable of action rather than palaver."

That and an attack on high interest rates all French politicians see forced upon them by the Germans sounded classically Gaullist, and it will not reassure the bankers across the Rhine.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

EU Ministers Press For Morocco Accord

BRUSSELS — European Union foreign ministers will meet in a special session Friday to try to break a deadlock over a crucial trade and cooperation accord with Morocco.

The deal, one of the building blocks for a future Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area, is hung up on an array of disputes over agricultural concessions being offered to Rabat.

"The whole agricultural dossier is still up for grabs," a diplomat said after the EU failed this week to find a solution. "Almost every country has some problems with something."

Yeltsin Says Kozyrev Will Have a Deputy

MOSCOW — President Boris N. Yeltsin, in the hospital with heart problems, and Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev agreed Thursday that the embattled minister would get a new first deputy, the Interfax news agency reported.

The appointment indicated that Mr. Kozyrev would keep his job, at least for now. Mr. Yeltsin said last month that he was looking for a replacement for Mr. Kozyrev but later said the minister just needed a deputy to help him with his administrative duties.

Leftists' Office in Oslo Is Damaged by Bomb

OSLO — A small bomb blew out windows but caused no injuries at a leftist youth group's meetinghouse in downtown Oslo on Thursday.

The group, called Blitz, has had frequent and sometimes violent confrontations with extreme rightist and neo-Nazi groups in Norway.

In a news release, Blitz said it believed the explosion was intended to mark the anniversary of Kristallnacht on Nov. 9, 1938, when Nazi Germany began its pogrom against Jews.

Russians May Build More Nuclear Plants

MOSCOW — Russia is considering building five more nuclear power plants in areas of the country with serious energy needs, the Interfax news agency reported Thursday.

Two of the proposed plants would be built in the Russian Far East, one would be built in central Russia and another in the Ural Mountains, the agency said.

Russia now has 28 nuclear plants that supply about 10 percent of its electricity.

Conservative Publicist Jumps Major's Ship

LONDON — In a new blow for Prime Minister John Major, the Conservative Party's public relations chief has quit, accusing the party of paralysis and arrogance.

"The Tory party behave as if they are in office by divine right — and assume voters will eventually see sense and rally to the flag," Hugh Colver wrote in the pro-conservative Sun newspaper Thursday, a day after resigning.

Mr. Colver resigned six months after taking the job at Conservative Party headquarters.

Calendar

European Union events on Friday:

SEVILLE: European and American business leaders meet with the U.S. commerce secretary, Ron Brown, and the EU trade commissioner, Leon Brittan.

BRUSSELS: Negotiations begin on an association agreement between the EU and Lebanon.

BRUSSELS: Talks continue between European and Japanese manufacturers.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

Berlusconi Says Opponents Are Behind Reports Of Mafia Links

ROME — Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, himself charged with corruption, faced potentially damaging accusations from his opponents on Thursday that his center-right Forza Italia movement was the "party of the Mafia."

Italian newspapers devoted front-page headlines to the arrest Wednesday of Francesco Musotto, president of the province of Palermo and a prominent Forza Italia politician in Sicily, on charges of Mafia association.

"Storm hits Forza Italia, Sicilian leader handcuffed for Mafia," said the daily La Stampa.

Forza Italia said the allegations against Mr. Musotto were "the result of a plot between the magistrates and the left."

Mr. Berlusconi, whose short-lived government collapsed in December, is to stand trial in January on charges of corruption linked to his media empire. He has accused anti-graft magistrates of being politically motivated.

Mr. Musotto, a lawyer who has defended numerous Mafiosi, was linked to the Socialist Party before it was discredited in Italy's corruption scandals.

He was accused of having helped Leoluca Bagarella, brother-in-law of the Mafia godfather Salvatore (The Beast) Riina, during his four years on the run before his capture in June.

Mr. Musotto's arrest came a few days after two parliamentary deputies, Vittorio Sgarbi and Forza Italia's Tiziana Maiolo, were advised by magistrates in the southern city of Catanzaro that they were being investigated for alleged Mafia links.

Mr. Sgarbi, who regularly criticizes anti-corruption magistrates on Mr. Berlusconi's TV channels, accused the investigators of "inquisition tactics and Nazism."

Pino Arlacchi, deputy chairman of Parliament's anti-Mafia commission, told the daily Corriere della Sera that Forza Italia, founded by Mr. Berlusconi after the collapse of Italy's old political guard, had Mafia support.

In Sicily, Calabria and Campania, Forza Italia has inherited an important part of the old political structures of the Christian Democrats and Socialists," he said. But he added that "maintaining that Forza Italia is a criminal association would be a gross falsehood."

In Brescia, meanwhile, a former finance police general who will be a co-defendant in the Berlusconi trial was convicted in a different bribery case Thursday and sentenced to four years and two months in prison.

The former official, Giuseppe Cercillo, was among 38 policemen and businessmen sentenced to jail terms ranging from four months to four years and eight months for exchanging bribes for easy tax audits.

U.S. Reporter Acquitted in Turkey

ISTANBUL — A court on Thursday acquitted a Reuters correspondent charged under Turkey's laws on freedom of expression over an article on the army's battles with rebel Kurds.

The three-member State Security Court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to convict Aliza Marcus, 33, a U.S. citizen, for the article. It voted unanimously to acquit her on the recommendation of the court prosecutor.

"It is requested that she be acquitted because there was not sufficient evidence and she did not have any criminal intent to commit a crime," the court prosecutor

said. The court then adjourned for five minutes before returning its verdict.

The prosecutor said the Reuters story carrying her byline was not hers alone but part of a team effort including other Reuters journalists and editors.

The case stemmed from a Nov. 25, 1994, story that referred to forcible evacuation of Kurdish villages as part of a military strategy against separatist Kurdish guerrillas in southeast Turkey.

Ms. Marcus had faced up to three years in prison for "provoking enmity and hatred by displaying racism or regionalism."

It was the second hearing of the case at the Istanbul state security court.

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INTERNATIONAL

War-Crime Tribunal Charges Serb Officers

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

A United Nations tribunal charged three senior Serbian officers with crimes against humanity on Thursday for their complicity in the mass execution of 261 men who were forcibly evicted from a hospital in eastern Croatia four years ago.

The charges accuse the three Serbian officers of being responsible for the attack and occupation of Vukovar, a city near the Serbian-Croatian border that was devastated by the Serbian Army after a bloody siege that involved some of the worst fighting seen in Europe since World War II.

It was the first time that Belgrade-based Serbs were charged with war crimes by the international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, which was established in The Hague two years ago by the UN Security Council.

The indictments appeared to bring investigators closer to the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, who has been accused of masterminding the violent quest for a Greater Serbia, but lately has emerged as a key player in the search for a peace settlement.

The chief prosecutor, Richard J. Goldstone of South Africa, said in a recent interview that, in the absence of an effective "paper trail," he was determined to follow a strategy of moving up the chain of command to find those ultimately responsible on all sides for the crimes against humanity committed in the Balkan fighting.

Judge Goldstone said he would not be deterred by continued fighting among the warring Serbian, Croatian and Muslim parties, or by delicate negotiations to reach a lasting peace deal that are now taking place

under U.S. supervision in Dayton, Ohio.

"These are matters that will not affect the decisions that we take, but they may affect how well we are able to do the job," Judge Goldstone said. "We are interested in building up a body of legal evidence, regardless of the political consequences."

The charges brought Thursday against the three Serbian officers relate to the infamous siege of Vukovar after Serbs in Croatia rebelled against the country's decision to secede from the Yugoslav federation.

The indictments accuse soldiers under the command of the three Serbian officers — Colonel Mile Mrksic, Captain Miroslav Radic and Major Veljko Stijevic — of removing 261 non-Serbian men from the Vukovar hospital and transporting them to a farm building in Ovcara, where the captives were beaten for several hours.

Later, the prisoners were taken in groups of 10 or 20 to a site near the farm where Yugoslav and Serbian paramilitary soldiers shot and killed them.

After the killings, the bodies of the victims were buried by a bulldozer in a mass grave at Ovcara.

A spokesman for the tribunal, Christian Chatrie, said all relevant documents had been transmitted to the Serbian government with a request that the three officers be arrested and turned over to the tribunal to stand trial.

Serbia has refused to recognize the tribunal or cooperate with its proceedings.

Of the 46 people who have been charged with war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, the vast majority are Bosnian Serbs, including their leader, Radovan Karadzic, and the military commander, Ratko Mladic. But only one Bosnian Serb, Dusan Tadic, is in custody and standing trial.



HIJACKED — Kabret Shamsu, an Ethiopian national, pressing a knife against the throat of an Olympic Airways crew member during a hijacking drama Thursday at the Athens airport. Greek police units stormed the plane and arrested the man, who had taken control of the plane shortly before it landed on a flight from Bangkok. No injuries were reported.

Egyptian Militants Threaten Tourists

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

CAIRO — Egypt's main Islamic militant group Thursday threatened a new wave of violence against foreign tourists in the wake of two recent attacks on passenger trains.

The threat by the outlawed Islamic Group, which has fought the secular regime of President Hosni Mubarak for four years, is the first against foreigners in more than a year.

In a handwritten statement faxed to international news agencies, the group said it was responsible for attacking a train in southern Egypt on Tuesday, wounding 10 Egyptians, and urged tourists to leave the country.

The statement did not claim responsibility for the second attack, in which gunmen opened fire on a train in southern Egypt on Wednesday night, causing minor injuries to a Dutch man, a French woman and an Egyptian man. The Egyptian was hospitalized but the foreigners, who were lightly wounded by flying glass, were able to continue their journey.

The militants had not fired on foreigners since March. There was no way to tell, however, whether this week's attacks are a harbinger of renewed violence or merely a sign of the militants' desperation.

The militants seized headlines in 1993 and 1994 with

attacks on government officials and, occasionally, trains, buses and Nile cruise ships frequented by foreign tourists. The violence caused anxiety in the Western capitals, which has long considered Egypt a stable ally in the Middle East peace process.

But security forces have since gained the upper hand, containing the militants to the sugarcane fields and mudbrick villages of Upper Egypt. The militants have little popular support and pose little evident threat to political stability. Tourists have returned in droves.

But the government's problems with Islamic militants are far from over. In June, Mr. Mubarak narrowly escaped assassination when members of the Islamic Group opened fire in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In Upper Egypt, meanwhile, the militants still inflict regular casualties on the police, who have taken to burning sugarcane fields to deprive them of cover.

In a handwritten statement faxed to international news agencies on Thursday, the Islamic Group said the first of the two attacks, on Tuesday, "comes as a warning once again to tourists against coming to Egypt and advises those here to leave the country immediately to protect their lives." Government officials said they could not authenticate the handwritten statement. But its language was consistent with previous threats issued by the group.

Croats and Muslims Move To Shore Up Federation

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

DAYTON, Ohio — The presidents of Bosnia and Croatia agreed Thursday to shore up their federation, uniting the divided city of Mostar and enabling the return of refugees, an official close to the Balkan peace talks here said.

"The agreement has been only initiated," the official said. "The signing ceremony will be held on Friday when Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives."

The official declined to go into details of the agreement.

He said about 100 families from each side would be allowed to return to their homes in Jajce, Travnik, Bugojno, Stolac and other towns contested by the two nations in 1993.

Hours earlier, senior officials said they expected that Croatian and Bosnian officials would solve the problems that have bedeviled their federation since it was forged last year to end the battles for territory in central Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Christopher said in Washington that he would go to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base outside Dayton to get involved in the promising discussions.

"I hope I'll be able to make some progress," he said.

The federation between the Croats and Muslims, former enemies, has been moribund since it was formed under U.S. auspices in the spring of 1994. Mostar, badly damaged in savage 1993 fighting between Muslims and Croats, has remained a divided city with separate administrations.

Mostar's two mayors are taking part in the talks here.

Soon after the talks convened Nov. 1, the U.S.-led international negotiating team presented drafts of key documents that would constitute the backbone of a possible treaty.

Since then, mediators have been shu-

tling among the Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian delegations, trying to identify points of agreement and hammer out compromises.

Mr. Christopher said he had talked three or four times on Wednesday with Richard C. Holbrooke, the chief U.S. mediator. He said it was a good sign that face-to-face negotiations were being held among the delegations, though "many, many hard problems remain."

The official who has been following the talks said a set of much firmer proposals had been prepared in the last several days on the basis of such contacts.

The proposals, he said, will be submitted to the warring parties by the mediators, who include representatives of the European Community, Britain, France, Russia and Germany.

"The Americans are being very tough," the official said.

"We will know where we all stand after tomorrow. The contents of the revised proposal will determine how long the talks will last and whether they will end successfully or not."

The documents address seemingly intractable problems that have thwarted repeated attempts to reach a settlement of the war that broke out in Croatia in 1991 and spread to Bosnia the next year.

The drafts include a constitution for a unified Bosnian state made up of a Muslim-Croatian and a Serbian entity, maps of the territorial division of the state and the status of its capital, Sarajevo.

"It's important all around to see what the next draft brings in terms of Sarajevo and other issues," a member of another delegation said.

(Reuters, AP)

Yeltsin Holds Firm on Sanctions

President Boris N. Yeltsin vetoed a bill Thursday that would call for Russia to unilaterally lift economic sanctions im-

France Links Sanctions to Fate of Fliers

Reuters

PARIS — Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette on Thursday linked the lifting of UN sanctions against Serbia to news of the fate of two missing French airmen shot down two months ago over Bosnia.

"We have let it be known to Mr. Milosevic that we might refuse to accept the lifting of the sanctions if we failed to receive the answers to questions we have the right to ask," Mr. de Charette said at a luncheon of diplomatic reporters in Paris. He was referring to the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic.

"It is a priority of France to succeed in discovering the fate of its two pilots," he added.

Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignat have been missing since Aug. 30 when their Mirage 2000 fighter-bomber was shot down over the Bosnian Serbian capital, Pale, as they took part in NATO air raids.

The two men were photographed on the ground, but the Bosnian Serbian leader, Radovan Karadzic, said later they were subsequently taken from a hospital by unknown kidnappers.

Relatives of French peacekeepers killed in action said this week that they had asked President Bill Clinton to intervene with Mr. Milosevic to press for news of the two men.

posed by the United Nations against Yugoslavia. Reuters reported from Moscow.

The president's office said that Mr. Yeltsin sent a letter to the speaker of the State Duma that explained his objections to the draft law.

Mubarak Faces Fundamentalist Wrath President's Trip to Jerusalem Enrages Religious Foes

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

CAIRO — In the heart of this sprawling capital's biggest slum, Sheikh Mayhoub Nasser is not the only one still seething at the sight of President Hosni Mubarak standing on Israeli soil.

Mr. Mubarak's journey to pay tribute to Yitzhak Rabin has been welcomed elsewhere as a noble if overdue gesture. But in slums like Imbaba, whose poverty makes it fertile soil for Islamic militants, the president's visit to Jerusalem is seen by some as a crucial mistake.

"Mubarak has just signed his own death certificate," Sheikh Nasser said Wednesday in his apartment here.

Although the sheikh commands wide respect among his neighbors, he insisted he was not making a threat. And even in this impoverished neighborhood, the notion that Egypt's president is now at greater risk is an extreme view.

But the sheikh expressed the frustration of many in saying that Muslims cannot tolerate a leader who would visit Israel when it still controls Jerusalem.

Mr. Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat, visited Jerusalem in 1977, even before Egypt made peace with Israel. Four years later, he was assassinated by Islamic militants who were angered both by the peace accord and the two nations reached in 1979 and by Mr. Sadat's visit.

Despite the peace, many in Egypt still look upon Israel as

an enemy. And while Mr. Mubarak's careful words at Mr. Rabin's funeral Monday stopped well short of an embrace, his supporters have hurried to head off charges that the president's presence was an affront to Islam.

A lengthy editorial Wednesday morning in Al-Ahram, the main government newspaper, offered seven reasons for the visit, saying that on balance it had been justified by "the exceptional situation." And Mr. Mubarak, who had previously refused repeated invitations to Israel, has told reporters, "I don't consider this a visit."

In interviews across Cairo, it was evident that his hope of avoiding a public backlash has been strengthened by comparisons between him and King Hussein of Jordan, whose more effusive eulogy to Mr. Rabin is described here as offensive.

Indeed, by the standards of the student protests that followed Mr. Sadat's visit to Jerusalem 18 years ago, the reaction to Mr. Mubarak's journey has been muted.

Because emergency laws have banned street demonstrations since the government began its crackdown against Islamic militants three years ago, only opposition newspapers like Al-Shaab have called critical attention to what it described as Mr. Mubarak's visit to "occupied Jerusalem."

While many ordinary Egyptians said they were untroubled by the visit, the forceful antipathy expressed by Islamic militants suggested that the step so welcomed in the West may carry domestic consequences.

"It is not befitting an Arab and a Muslim leader to visit Jerusalem when it is still occupied," said Mohammed Ez-

zat, 21, a leader of Islamic students at Cairo University, where student union elections Wednesday pitted Islamic candidates against those from a government-supported secular society. "We should never have had relations in the first place with anyone who still occupies our land."

Only three years ago the government dispatched 14,000 troops to Imbaba as part of its crackdown on Islamic militants, and the firm hand Cairo has wielded against Egypt has left many people reluctant to express dissent.

So Sheikh Nasser was unusual in his neighborhood Wednesday only for allowing his name to be used as he criticized the Mubarak visit as an endorsement of Israel's control of Jerusalem.

"It is bad for both Arabs and Muslims," he said.

PLOT: Israel Sees Wide Conspiracy in Assassination

Continued from Page 1

the volatile political climate that led up to the assassination, was said by his spokesman Thursday to have received death threats since the murder.

The assassination has thrown an unwelcome spotlight on Shin Bet's presumption that any threat to an Israeli figure would come from Arabs. Four officials of the service have either resigned or been transferred since the assassination, and the government has set up a commission of inquiry into the murder.

Mr. Peres said this week that Mr. Rabin had been alerted to the possibility of an assassination attempt at last Saturday's rally. But security officials said Thursday that their concerns had centered on a possible car-bombing in reprisal for the killing in Malta of a top figure in the Islamic Jihad movement.

Israeli officials now seem to be suggesting that an underground Jewish extremist network had wider tentacles than Mr. Amir acknowledged, grouping accomplices who felt they acted with scriptural sanction.

By evoking the idea of a Jewish underground, the police suspicions kindle long memories of clandestine, violent action by Jewish groups before and after the foundation of the state. Indeed, for many former Israeli leaders—including Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir—their actions in the Jewish underground became part of their political credentials.

And in the 1980s, clandestine groups attacked Arabs, plotted to blow up the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem's Temple Mount and planted bombs in the cars of two Palestinian mayors in the West Bank.

But what stuns Israelis is that if a modern underground is at work it is targeting Israelis, not the British and Palestinians who were the targets of groups in the 1940s. And, in confronting that idea, Israelis must also face the uncomfortable memory of earlier, fratricidal bloodletting that suggests that the Rabin assassination belongs to a painful tradition that some would prefer to ignore.

The police minister, Mr. Shalev, said officials were now investigating reports that ultra-nationalist rabbis had promoted Mr. Rabin's killing by giving religious blessing to his murder.

At a gathering of religious and settlement groups in Jerusalem on Tuesday night, Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun of the West Bank settlement of Ofra said some rabbinical authorities had said Mr. Rabin presented a threat and may, therefore, be killed.

The police minister said more arrests were expected.

Paris Bombing Suspect Ordered Held by U.K.

Reuters

LONDON — An Algerian charged in connection with bombings in France appeared in a British court Thursday and was told that he would be held while Paris prepared an extradition request.

Rachid Ramda, an unemployed 26-year-old with no fixed address, was arrested in London on Saturday. He will appear in court again next Thursday.

British police charged him with "unlawfully and maliciously conspiring with others since July to cause an explosion of a nature likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property in France."

The police in France blame militant Algerian Muslims for a series of bombings, which began in July and have killed sev-

VIETNAM: Old Foes Meet

Continued from Page 1

War figures were evident Thursday. General Giap, 84, who led the early military campaigns against French colonialists before the Vietnam War, wore his olive green military uniform. Mr. McNamara, 79, a Ford Motor Co. executive before he took the reins of the military in 1961, wore a blue suit. The general sat comfortably, smiling and talking. Mr. McNamara appeared more the eager and slightly nervous technocrat, furiously scribbling notes on a yellow legal pad as General Giap spoke.

The fact that McNamara came here to see me shows that the situation has changed," General Giap said after the meeting. When he received guests during the war, he noted wryly, referring to the bombing raids that were part of Mr. McNamara's war strategy, "I had to do it underground, in a shelter."

General Giap told Mr. McNamara that he believed the patrons of the Maddox were a deliberate ploy to draw the United States into the war.

The Johnson administration had devised a plan of sabotage activities on the sea and in the air in order to seek the approval of Congress," he said. Later, Mr. McNamara said that General Giap's analysis was "absolutely without foundation."

POWELL: For Clinton, Dole and the Others, a Key Threat Sidelined

Continued from Page 1

bests in trial-heat polls, or one of the other announced Republican hopefuls, none of whom is given much chance of beating him by most Republican professionals. There is also the possibility that the abrasive House speaker, Newt Gingrich, might enter the race. He has said that he would decide before the New Hampshire filing deadline, Dec. 15.

Right now, the contest for the Republican nomination seems more than ever Mr. Dole's to lose. He not only lost a rival on Wednesday; he gained a highly

valuable endorsement, that of Governor Stephen Merrill of New Hampshire, site of the first primary.

Nevertheless, all the polls show that his support is soft, and therefore subject to rapid erosion if he stumbles, which he has done in the past.

If he does so again, it is hard to judge who will pick up the pieces. Two rivals, former Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, struggling for attention, each issued statements arguing that General Powell's withdrawal had turned the Republican race into a two-way

fight between himself and Mr. Dole.

Except for Mr. Gingrich, the Republican field seems set, with no other obvious possibilities lurking offstage.

A third-party ticket headed by Ross Perot or another candidate remains possible. But unlike an independent campaign by General Powell, which would presumably have attracted many Democratic voters, a Perot candidacy would be likely to help Mr. Clinton by attracting more Republicans than Democrats, as Mr. Perot did in 1992.

So the president had reason

to rejoice. But the political skill and personal magnetism that General Powell displayed in the very act of turning away from electoral politics, at least for the moment, had the effect of making many politicians, and presumably many more voters, reflect on the race that might have been.

Manure and experience yet unscarred by the political wars, he offered qualities that Mr. Clinton and Mr. Dole cannot possibly match.

"He demonstrated today why he should be president," a leading Republican said. "He's a grown-up."

KING: Thailand's Monarch Is a Figurehead, but One With Real Teeth

Continued from Page 1

Bangkok, killing dozens of civilian protesters.

The meeting was televised, with the antagonists prostrating themselves — approaching the king on their hands and knees, literally. Afterward, the violence ended as suddenly as it began, and the prime minister, a former army general, resigned in disgrace.

King Bhumibol, who ascended to the throne in June 1946, is the great-grandson of King Mongkut, the farsighted ruler who was celebrated on Broadway and by Hollywood in the musical "The King and I."

But the fairy tale kingdom captured by Rodgers and Hammerstein disappeared long ago.

replaced by a fast-developing nation struggling with every sort of modern ill, from pollution to AIDS to rampant political corruption.

For millions of Thais, the king represents the only consistency they have known in the way they are governed.

Since the absolute monarchy was overthrown in the 1930s, this coup-prone nation has suffered through military dictatorships and short-lived civilian governments.

Many Thais worry what will happen when the king's reign ends. His only son, Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, has acknowledged in interviews that he is considered the

family's "black sheep," and has had to deny rumors that he is linked to unsavory activities from owning nightclubs to rigging lotteries.

It is not surprising then that worries about the king's health are front page news in Bangkok. He has been hospitalized twice this year for treatment for a constricted coronary artery.

"No one trusts the politicians on any subject, but everybody believes the king," said Sawai Sincha, whose noodle stand in Bangkok is decorated with a tiny teak-framed photograph of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit. "He is the only one we can trust."

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West United To Prevent Hanging In Nigeria

Cuba's Legal

Tamil Force Rights Group

Turkey Push

INTERNATIONAL

West Urged
To Prevent
Hangings
In Nigeria

LAGOS — Nigerian human rights groups urged the West on Thursday to act quickly to stop the execution of a minority rights advocate, Ken Saro-Wiwa, and eight colleagues condemned to death by the country's military rulers.

A day before, Nigeria's ruling generals had ratified the death sentences of Mr. Saro-Wiwa, president of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni Peoples, and eight other members of the group, who were convicted of the murder last year of four moderate Ogoni chiefs. The nine were sentenced last week by a special military court.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa, an acclaimed playwright, says he was framed for the killings because of his political activities.

He and his co-defendants are from the Ogoni ethnic group, a minority of about 500,000 people in southern Nigeria who say their land and water have been destroyed by pollution from the oil industry. Oil accounts for about 80 percent of Nigeria's export income, and critics of the industry are often silenced.

A senior government official denied rumors circulating overseas that the nine were hanged early Thursday. "It is not true at all," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.



Mr. Saro-Wiwa's son, Ken, in Auckland, New Zealand, on Thursday asking the Commonwealth to save his father.

Other Nigerian human rights groups condemned the confirmation of the death sentences and urged the West to take action.

"The haste with which the sentences were passed shows they are determined to shed blood," said the national president of the Civil Liberties Organization, Ayo Obe.

Clement Nwankwo, president of the Constitutional Rights Project, said, "The West must act quickly to prevent hanging."

Western nations, including the United States and Britain, have urged the Nigerian government not to carry out the executions.

But Brigadier-General Sam Malu, who made the announcement about the sentence, ruled out clemency.

The confirmation of the death sentences drew a sharp reaction from other British Commonwealth countries, whose leaders were gathering in Auckland for a summit meeting. But the group of former

British territories appeared split on what to do.

Zimbabwe's prime minister, Robert Mugabe, said Nigeria could be excluded from the Commonwealth if Mr. Saro-Wiwa and the other men were hanged.

But New Zealand's prime minister, Jim Bolger, said expelling Nigeria was not the answer, since the Commonwealth would lose the chance of persuading Nigerian rulers to exercise clemency.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa's son, Ken

Wiwa, who is in Auckland to lobby for his father, said that by confirming the death sentences the generals had thrown down a gauntlet that foreign governments had been unable to pick up.

Nigeria gained its independence from Britain in 1960. In 1993, its military rulers, led by General Sani Abacha, annulled the results of a presidential election that was supposed to have brought civilian rule back to the most populous nation in Africa. (Reuters, AP)

Argentine Suspect Held
In Jewish Center Blast

By Gabriel Escobar
Washington Post Service

Buenos Aires — A former army sergeant who allegedly played a direct role in last year's bombing of a Jewish community center that killed 86 people here has surrendered to authorities, raising hopes that the stalled investigation can at last be pressed to a conclusion.

The suspect, identified as Pedro Ricardo Fonseca, 35, turned himself in to the police on Monday in the southern port city of Comodoro Rivadavia and was flown to the capital for questioning. According to media reports, Mr. Fonseca told investigators he had escorted the van that carried the powerful bomb that leveled the Jewish center on July 18, 1994.

The bombing, often described as one of the bloodiest peacetime attacks against a Jewish facility anywhere, shattered the seven-story brick building. It took days for work crews to locate and recover all the bodies. More than 300 people were injured.

Although Argentina and the United States have consistently blamed Islamic militants with ties to Iran for the attack, there have been strong suggestions from the outset that Argentine nationalists may have been involved.

The surrender of Mr. Fonseca, who apparently left the army after taking part in an abortive military uprising in 1990, is certain to increase spec-

ulation that Argentines played more than an ancillary role in the attack and that local anti-Semites may have collaborated with international terrorists.

Argentine Jewish leaders, who are regularly apprised of the status of the police investigation, said last week that they had been informed that several policemen in Buenos Aires Province were involved in an auto-theft ring whose leaders have been implicated but not charged in the bombing.

According to media reports citing court sources, Mr. Fonseca was given \$100,000 to leave the country after the bombing, presumably by collaborators in the attack. He spent some time in Brazil and Chile and then returned last week to Argentina, surrendering because he feared for his life.

The investigative magistrate in charge of the case declined to comment on the media reports, and some Jewish leaders reacted cautiously, citing earlier arrests that received wide publicity and ultimately led nowhere. One investigator, speaking on condition that he not be named, said Mr. Fonseca's claims were being checked "for veracity and mendacity."

The Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, one of many international Jewish organizations that monitor the Buenos Aires investigation, has pressed Argentina from the beginning to look into its own ranks for possible conspirators. Evidence that police officials are

linked to the only person previously detained in the case, an Argentine auto mechanic who has been jailed for more than a year, only fuel such suspicions.

"We are being very cautious, waiting to see what happens," Sergio Widder, the Wiesenthal Center's representative in Argentina, said of Mr. Fonseca's surrender. The case, he said, "is always pointing to retired police officers, active police officers, members of the security services and retired members of the security services."

That perception is also heightened by the fact that a 1990 bomb blast that killed 29 persons at the Israeli Embassy here has still not been solved. A persistent criticism of Argentine investigators in that case is that they have not vigorously pursued leads for fear of where they may lead, a charge they have strongly denied.

President Carlos Saul Menem and other senior officials have said repeatedly that Argentina is aggressively investigating the embassy blast and have noted that terrorist attacks elsewhere in the world seldom yield suspects.

Iran has denied assertions by U.S. and Israeli officials, and Jewish leaders here that Iranian-backed agents carried out the 1994 bombing. For its part, Tehran has accused Israel and "Zionist agents" of responsibility in the shooting last month of its top diplomat in Argentina.

Cuba's Bow to 'Reality'
Legal Currency Trading Turns a Profit

By Larry Rohrer
New York Times Service

HAVANA — In an attempt to challenge the flourishing black market for American dollars and to soak up surplus pesos that have been fueling inflation, the Cuban government, for the first time in more than 30 years, is permitting its citizens to buy and sell foreign currencies on the open market.

Until July 1993, it was illegal for Cubans even to possess dollars, much less exchange them. But since then American currency has come to play an increasingly important role in this Communist state, thanks to remittances from Cubans living abroad, the opening of special consumer good shops that accept payment only in hard currency and a boom in European and Canadian tourism.

The new policy went into effect in mid-October, and eight foreign exchange kiosks are operating. "The government has bowed to economic reality and decided that if you can't beat the black market, you may as well join it and try to siphon off some of its profits," said a foreign economic analyst.

As set by the National Bank of Cuba, the official exchange rate between the dollar and the peso has been one to one. But the official money exchange kiosks, run by a nominally independent Cuban-owned company called Cadeca, are buying dollars at a rate of 25 to 1 while

selling them for 30 pesos, about the same rate offered by black market money exchangers.

Consumer goods and necessities like cooking oil are still in short supply and can usually be found only in hard currency shops or on the black market, both of which demand payment in dollars. The sale of dollars through the exchange bureaus also appears intended to take excess amounts of Cuban pesos out of circulation.

Too many pesos chasing too few consumer goods has helped in recent years to feed an inflationary spiral that worries the architects of the incipient free-market sector of the Cuban economy. Government officials hope that the foreign exchange kiosks will speed up a process set in motion by price increases for goods and services that once were free to the population.

At the beginning of 1994 there were 12 billion pesos in circulation, according to official statistics, but that figure has been reduced by nearly one quarter, said José Luis Rodríguez, the minister of the economy and planning.

Andrew Zimbalist, an expert on the Cuban economy who teaches at Smith College, said the new exchange system could also be regarded as "a small first step" toward full convertibility of the peso. But government officials stress that the system is experimental. "This is an attempt to gain experience," said José Júlío Rodríguez, vice president of the National Bank of Cuba. "We have to see if it works, if the population wants it, and if so, it will be expanded."

Tamils Forced Evacuation of Jaffna,
Rights Group Says as Siege Tightens

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

COLOMBO — Masked Tamil guerrillas moved from house to house and threatened civilians to get them to evacuate Jaffna town in northern Sri Lanka last month, a human-rights group said Thursday.

The report, by the University Teachers for Human Rights (Jaffna), was made public as Britain urged the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the army, massed at the gates of Jaffna, to avoid civilian casualties and return to negotiating.

The Tigers "had made it clear in a variety of ways that it wanted people to quit Jaffna," the rights group said, adding that "masked cadres went to

houses and acted intimidatory."

It said the Tigers ordered people by loudspeaker on Oct. 30 to evacuate the town, the capital of their prospective homeland in the north and east, saying they were fighting a "democratic force."

Britain appealed for negotiations as costs of the war mounted. Sri Lanka raised defense spending for 1996 to \$745 million from \$627 million.

"We deplore the loss of life and destruction resulting from this conflict," said Jeremy Hanley, minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs. He urged both sides "to take all possible steps to avoid further civilian casualties."

On Wednesday, nine moderate Tamil groups called for an immediate cease-fire.

It put the number of the displaced at nearly half a million people, an estimate the government disputes.

A military source said this week that the Tigers were believed to be holding back some civilians in Jaffna town to ensure civilian casualties if and when the army strikes, thus prompting an outcry overseas.

The Sri Lankan forces are inching forward on the peninsula, clearing mines and booby traps on the approaches to Jaffna town. A spokesman said Thursday troops were consolidating positions taken nearly a week ago. (Reuters, AFP)

Turkey Pushes EU on Customs Pact

Agence France-Press

STRASBOURG — Turkey and Commissioner Hans van den Broek of the European Commission urged the European Parliament on Thursday to endorse a customs union with Ankara, saying it now met Union conditions on democracy and human rights.

Speaking at a press conference, Mr. van den Broek, the Union's commissioner for relations with Eastern Europe, said, "Movement toward democracy in Turkey has reached a point that should enable the European Parliament to give its approval" to the customs union deal.

Earlier, in Ankara, Prime

Minister Tansu Ciller called on the European Parliament to approve the customs union, and announced a tour of European capitals to lobby for ratification and defend Ankara's progress on human rights.

Mrs. Ciller accused critics of exaggerating human rights abuses in Turkey and urged European lawmakers to acknowledge Turkey's progress in liberalizing terrorism and freedom of speech laws.

The European Parliament has threatened to block the planned accord unless Turkey improved its human rights record. The body is expected to announce its decision in December.

Turkey provoked outrage last December when a court handed down heavy jail terms to eight pro-Kurdish deputies on separatism charges. Some sentences were reduced on appeal last month, but the outcry prompted Ankara to rush changes through its Parliament in a bid to save the customs union.

In her statement Thursday, Mrs. Ciller said numerous changes had been approved, including modification of 16 articles of the constitution, saying "each of them alone would be a milestone."

"To suggest that we have done nothing or accomplished little in this extraordinary year is unreasonable," she said.

18.30 CET

**1900 TO 1999
MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS
FROST'S CENTURY**

DAVID FROST'S UNIQUE INSIGHTS INTO
THE EVENTS THAT SHAPED OUR LIVES.

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Lessons From Powell

Presumably both President Bill Clinton and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole have been feeling much better since about 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, the hour when Colin Powell made official his decision not to be a candidate for the presidency. We suppose that the two party front-runners could even be forgiven a little giddiness, as could some of the others seeking the office, such as Phil Gramm and Lamar Alexander. General Powell's prospective entry into the race had threatened to upend all of their ambitions. But when the last sigh of relief has been heaved by all of the aforementioned men, they would do well to entertain a much less reassuring thought. They would do well to contemplate what it was about Colin Powell — and, no less important, what it is about themselves — that made the general's potential candidacy so magnetic and inspiring and party-transcending to so many Americans.

If they are honest with themselves they will not buy the cheap, easy answer about how the unknown and untainted candidate is always more attractive than the candidate who is declared, and how all that would have changed the minute General Powell got into the race, etc. They will acknowledge, at least to themselves, that the leadership qualities of dignity, clarity and straightforwardness that Colin Powell projects, not to mention his rare ability to laugh at himself and his total inability to put on airs or engage in degrading gimmicks and love-me stunts, are qualities that people are desperate for in America's political life. Especially are they desperate for them in the men who are laying claim to the office of president.

General Powell may or may not be all of the wondrous things his supporters say he is, but there are a few truths of which you can be certain. He does not indulge

(and never has) the maddeningly self-referential, it's-all-about-me temptation that so often disfigures the president's prose. Unlike Senator Dole, he is not given to reflexively converting so many of the issues that come before him — instantaneously and without missing a beat — into mean, small-bore assault material against whomever he is taking on that day. You cannot imagine Colin Powell, had he got into the race, spending an entire campaign, as Phil Gramm has, deciding which people to throw out of some metaphorical wagon. And you equally cannot imagine his having a résumé transplant, as former insider, now self-described outsider Lamar Alexander has, or tricking himself out in some attire like Mr. Alexander's famous red plaid lumberjack's shirt by way of explaining to the American voter why he should be president.

Not even close. General Powell said sensible things on Wednesday about the Republican Party, about the political opportunities of African-Americans, about the point where the rimming of government (of which he approves) becomes something different and destructive, especially in regard to poor children. He was easy and unfussed in discussing Alma Powell's experience with depression. Senator Dole had earlier said that General Powell would be in trouble once he started having to take the tough, nit-picky questions about things like ethanol. As the press conference wore to its end on Wednesday, we found ourselves wishing someone would ask an ethanol question, since by then we had decided that he could probably put that one away, too. Ton bad he isn't a candidate; but Colin Powell, if the others would take a good look at the tape of his presentation, could yet have a positive impact on the '96 campaign.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Urgent Message to Lagos

General Sani Abacha's military dictatorship is moving quickly to execute Ken Saro-Wiwa, one of Nigeria's leading environmentalists and minority rights leaders, after convicting him on trumped up charges in a military court. Nigeria's ruling council confirmed Mr. Saro-Wiwa's sentence on Wednesday. Only outside intervention, especially by the United States and the international oil companies whose business keeps the Abacha regime afloat, can now save his life. President Bill Clinton should speak out on Mr. Saro-Wiwa's behalf without delay.

Nigeria is one of Africa's most richly endowed countries, but a succession of military dictators have looted it and left its people impoverished. Since he seized power in 1993, General Abacha's tolerance for corruption and international drug dealing and his gross abuses of human rights have made matters considerably worse.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa was targeted because he has been an effective leader of the Ogoni people who inhabit Nigeria's main oil-producing region. He mobilized campaigns to win compensation for environmental damage caused by the oil industry and pressed for a modest share of oil revenues to be diverted from the pockets of the military toward the needs of the Ogoni people. This popular movement has brought military repression to Ogoniland. The alleged crime for which Mr. Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni leaders have been

sentenced to death, the killing of four moderate Ogoni chiefs, occurred during clashes between moderates and a militant youth faction. Mr. Saro-Wiwa was not even in the vicinity when these clashes occurred. The U.S. State Department has protested the lack of due process, and the British Foreign Office has strongly deplored both the trial and the death sentences. But more is needed, and fast.

International businesses should normally try to stay clear of domestic politics. But the direct connection of this case to the oil industry, the reliance of the Abacha regime on oil revenues and the looming threat of international sanctions make this an exception. Oil companies, especially Shell, historically the main producer in Ogoniland, as well as two American-based companies, Chevron and Mobil, should use their influence with Nigeria's government in Mr. Saro-Wiwa's behalf.

TransAfrica, the African-American lobbying group that led the economic boycott campaign against apartheid in South Africa, has been urging an oil embargo against the Nigerian dictatorship. That is a drastic step, but it begins to look like the only way to slow General Abacha's ruinous course. By executing Mr. Saro-Wiwa, the general would powerfully strengthen TransAfrica's case.

Justice demands not only the commutation of Mr. Saro-Wiwa's sentence but his immediate release.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

After Sexual Assault

Every 45 seconds in America a woman is sexually assaulted — for a total of 700,000 victims a year. These women desperately need someone to confide in, and many would like to talk to their personal physicians, but doctors are often too clumsy or insensitive to counsel victims of violence. New guidelines just issued by the American Medical Association should help improve their skills.

Sexual assault is a "silent violent epidemic" that is "traumatizing the women and children of our nation," says the AMA president, Lonnie Bristow. Some 95 percent of the victims are women, most of them under age 18. The assault is most often a lover, friend, acquaintance or relative. Women are silent about sexual assaults because, too often, they are made to feel more like criminals than victims. Fewer than half of all sexual assaults are reported, and many victims fail to seek help promptly.

While doctors are in a good position to identify and treat victims, they do not routinely talk to patients about violence in their lives, and patients do not routinely turn to them. The AMA's new guidelines remind doctors to be alert for physical signs of abuse and for evidence of psychological trauma, as when a woman or child panics or withdraws from the

doctor's touch during a routine exam. The guidelines, which are being distributed to health care professionals, are part of a broader AMA effort to address the physical and mental scars of abuse.

The more doctors are made aware of violence and its consequences, the more effectively they can treat or prevent it.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Worry in Hong Kong

Hong Kong people are understandably distrustful when China's position seems to be that it will take away anything Governor Chris Patten defends as important. With 1997 just around the corner, our guess is that we would all be better off, China included, if Beijing stopped taking a negative cue from Hong Kong's last colonial governor and began demonstrating to its future citizens what they will gain from Chinese leadership. Hong Kong people are not anti-China. But, like all people who are being courted, they find bouquets more persuasive than threats.

—Far Eastern Economic Review (Hong Kong).

Peres Is Right to Pursue Security Through Peace

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — Israel's new prime minister, Shimon Peres, has been derided by his own people as a visionary. But he is fully aware of the enormous extra difficulties he faces in the drive for peace without his former rival and then political partner, the slain Yitzhak Rabin.

His stunned face in the aftermath of the assassination showed it. There was shock and grief, but beyond that, in a man never accused of modesty, the kind of humble awe of unexpected responsibility expressed by President Harry Truman taking over from Franklin D. Roosevelt, according to a new book based on Truman's letters and notes. This is not to compare the men but the situation.

When I saw him in Amman and again in Jerusalem last week, Mr. Peres was euphoric. He has clear ideas of how to forge ahead, step by step although he cannily doesn't spell it out, and where he expects to arrive. He speaks of an essential triangle, Israel-Palestinians-Jordan, and he likes to use the metaphor of Benelux, three distinct cultures and countries living in fruitful symbiosis.

But his biggest problem will be Israel, and that is what he has suddenly had to realize. He has been the accelerator, Mr. Rabin the brake, as the Israeli engine for

peace chugged steadily forward. He produced the ideas and diplomatic breakthroughs, Mr. Rabin the essential domestic support and confidence.

In the near term, Israeli horror and revulsion at the murder will reinforce his efforts to gather the divided nation behind his unquestioned determination to fulfill the promise. He will be the prime target of vitriolic fanatics now.

It should help him that the opposition offers just that — opposition and dire warnings, no real alternative.

There is too much time to go, however, too many major obstacles ahead for the solidarity of distress to carry him through. He will need help to replace the reassurance that Mr. Rabin's tough record and rugged temperament provided. It will need to come not only from stricken Israelis but also from Arab leadership and the outside world, especially American Jewry.

Syria's President Hafez Assad told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Damascus last week that Mr. Rabin was too fearful of Israeli critics. Last Saturday showed Mr. Assad's underestimation of the risk and perhaps overestimation of the

powers of a democratic leader, who must persuade as well as decide. Mr. Assad should reconsider, for he, too, stands to lose if the momentum is lost.

The reflex reaction of many moderate Arabs, who do want an accord, has been that the Israelis must move to crack down as hard on their own extremists and terrorists as they do on their unrelenting Arab enemies. There is a point in noting that Israel applies a double standard, and its police and justice need to be stricter in imposing the law. But the indulgence stems from a long war and war's inevitable assumptions in defining friend and foe.

There are no more "good terrorists," and that must be proclaimed more unequivocally and effectively than ever.

Egypt, which has been cool in recent years after having made the first peace with Israel, has come to fear Israeli economic dominance. That is self-denying. Israel, flourishing now with growth rates on the order of 7 percent, is already reaping a peace dividend from new investment and the opening of huge new markets in the once reluctant developing countries. The neighbor's new prosperity offers opportunities for Egypt, too.

President Hosni Mubarak, who went to Israel for the first time to attend Mr.

Rabin's funeral, stressed that he came to offer condolences, not to visit. A warmer relation would comfort Israelis, and thus help Mr. Peres convince them that he is on the right track. The American government has not faltered in its support, but congressional ploys on moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and cutting off aid to the PLO are aimed only at domestic U.S. politics in the belief that American Jews essentially back Israeli hard-liners.

There is an extremist fringe in the United States as fierce as Israeli extremists. But they are not the majority, which has been intimidated by the shrill voices of those who pretend to defend Israel by opposing peace negotiations. The others must make themselves heard if they want Mr. Peres to succeed.

All of this is needed for more Israelis to take heart and see much more hope than danger in the course Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres launched together, and to fill the vacuum of confidence left by Mr. Rabin's death. It is worth it, for all concerned.

Only Israelis will vote in their elections next year, but as usual they will be looking all around to judge the prospect of security. Peace, says Mr. Peres, is the most reliable one. He is right.

© Flora Lewis.

Yet Another Peace-Seeker Assassinated in the Middle East

By John K. Cooley

NICOSIA — Yitzhak Rabin's murder by a Jewish extremist is the latest assassination in a long series. Each was intended to nullify peace efforts or retard history's natural progress in the Middle East. Each contains lessons.

King Hussein of Jordan, emotionally eulogizing Mr. Rabin as "my brother, my friend" at the slain Israeli leader's funeral in Jerusalem, alluded to the 1951 murder of his grandfather, King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan.

Before the eyes of Hussein, then a boy of 16, a Palestinian assassin gunned Abdullah down. The murderer, and other Palestinians, resented Abdullah's audacious meetings with Israelis to seek Israeli-Arab compromises and peace, which only his grandson would reach in the Jordan-Israel treaty of 1994.

Yitzhak Rabin, then a young officer in the fledgling Israeli army but already a tough veteran of fighting against both Arabs and the pre-1948 British mandate authorities, acted on at least part of the lessons that Hussein also learned on that day of murder at Jerusalem's Grand Mosque.

First lesson: Get to know your enemy. He may become your

honorable adversary; eventually your friend. You must meet him frequently, and in total secrecy. Open meetings and covenants, like today's television sound bite diplomacy, lead only to trouble and charges of treachery from opponents of compromise.

King Abdullah wasn't careful enough. He paid with his life. His grandson, and Yitzhak Rabin, then a young officer with a solid background in guerrilla warfare in Jewish causes, took in the lesson. Over the years, Hussein met Mr. Rabin and other Israelis in deepest secrecy. Together they found ways out of many a deep crisis, such as the grave threat to Hussein's life and throne from Palestinian extremists in 1970.

It was Egypt's militant nationalist President Gamal Abdel Nasser who became the next victim of religious extremists. Bullies fired by Egyptian members of the arch-Islamist Muslim Brotherhood nearly killed him at least twice in the early 1950s. Not only was his vision of a better Egyptian society too secular and too "socialist" for them; he was accused of too great patience with

the former occupying power, Britain, as well as with Israel and its patron, America.

It turned out to be President Dwight Eisenhower who in effect rescued Nasser from his attackers in the Suez War of 1956 — Israel, Britain and France. Essentially, Eisenhower did that by becoming the only U.S. president ever to warn Israel's supportive fund-raisers in America that their tax-free privileges were at risk unless they supported Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Sinai, as the United Nations was demanding.

After that, Israel, as its founding father David Ben-Gurion told me in an interview in 1968, had no choice but to withdraw. Before exhaustion, heart failure and diabetes finally felled Nasser after he had helped to end King Hussein's 1970 war with Yasser Arafat's PLO in Jordan, he had, through U.S. intermediaries, approached the Israelis with secret offers of compromise peace. None were accepted. His Western image remained bad.

Nasser was too secretive. He was surrounded by almost Soviet-type security spooks who usually

dared to give him only good news, so his judgment was flawed. His image in the West was not that of the peacemaker, like his successor Anwar Sadat, but of one who had tried unsuccessfully to wage war on Israel.

President Sadat, the darling of Barbara Walters, Walter Cronkite and the other media greats of my generation, knew a lot more about human psychology than Nasser. He saw clearly what Yitzhak Rabin seemed to need: two more wars (Yom Kippur in 1973 and Lebanon in 1982) to perceive that Israel-Palestine accord was the central condition of real Arab-Israeli Peace.

But Sadat also knew that peace would have to wait until, with American help, Egypt and Israel attained their settlement first. He was right; they did.

The Islamist gunman who felled Sadat at a military parade that was meant to celebrate that peace spoke in terms similar to those used by Yitzhak Rabin's Jewish assassin. He was proud, he said, to have killed the "traitor" who had become an enemy of God by compromising.

Unlike Rabin, Sadat allowed himself to get involved in a ma-

jeor American adventure; the proxy war, using Islamist mercenaries, against the Soviets in Afghanistan. It was men whom Sadat had trained and armed to fight for the Americans in that anti-Communist crusade who turned on him and killed him — just as some of the Afghan veterans and their sons and successors, after driving out the Russians, turned on the West.

Like Rabin and Abdullah, Sadat was in fact murdered essentially because he sought and had obtained a reasonable, honorable Israel-Palestine Peace.

Rabin's two major tasks — consolidating and completing the difficult self-rule agreement with the Palestinians, and concluding lasting peace with President Hafez Assad of Syria — were not accomplished. It will take all the will, wit, wisdom, courage and luck that the Middle East's and the West's remaining men and women of vision can muster to complete Yitzhak Rabin's unfinished work for peace.

The writer, an ABC news correspondent and author, contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

Hypothesis: Welfare Hurts the Women by Demobilizing the Men

By William Raspberry

WASHINGTON — What's wrong with American welfare? Here is an answer you haven't heard:

"The key problem of the welfare culture is not unemployed women with illegitimate children. It is the women's skewed and traumatic relationships with men and boys. In a reversal of the usual pattern in civilized societies, the women have the income and the ties to government authority and support. The men are economically and socially subordinate."

"This balance of power virtually prohibits marriage, which is everywhere based on the provider role of men counterbalancing the sexual and do-

mestic superiority of women."

That comes from the conservative George Gilder, writing in the June issue of the conservative American Spectator, a name and affiliation that might lead some readers to suspect thought.

You see, of course, where Mr. Gilder is headed. Men, he believes, are the key to strong families. And if they are, the more successful welfare is — even if it leads women to jobs, child care and improved earnings — the worse it will be for families, because it will "render the men still more optional, desperate, feral, and single."

Does any of this make sense?

How would I feel, hearing this indispensable-man argument, if I were female, especially if I were a single mother?

Already there has been a stream of books and articles (some of them written by me) arguing the negative effects of absent fathers on children and on communities, or contending that the breakdown of marriage is the leading indicator of social pathology, or otherwise calling for reclamation of men and boys as the means of rescuing society. The Million Man March only underscored the notion. Some women must be wondering what makes us think

that men are God's primary gift?

Well, Mr. Gilder isn't quite saying we are. What he is saying is that children need their fathers, too, and so do their mothers; and that welfare almost calculatedly drives the men away, perpetuating both the worst effects of welfare and the need for it. Listen:

"The entire welfare state — from Donna Shalala to Bob Dole's Senate offices — is relentlessly feminist, mandating preferences for women on construction sites, in police cruisers, in Air Force jets and in athletic scholarships. These programs necessarily concentrate their job incentives, training benefits and subsidies on women rather than on men because, in general, it is only the mothers who are on welfare. The fathers use the apartment and take the money of a series of welfare mothers, usually without joining the dot. Thus the recipients of welfare-related work will mainly be women."

"But we know from reams of studies and centuries of experience that only fathers can satisfactorily sustain families, reliably discipline teenage boys, and lift a community from poverty. The idea that welfare mothers can do it while the government raises their children is incredibly naive..."

"The very idea that women with small children should work outside the home is perverse. The welfare state has already deprived these children of fathers. The

workforce state proposes to take away the mothers as well."

Implicit in that analysis is the idea of woman as civilizer of naturally predatory man. How does she do it? By demanding commitment (which she needs) in exchange for sex (his priority). Welfare eliminates the economic basis for the commitment.

"Unless they are tamed by marriage and the provider role, he says, 'men become enemies of civilization and revert to their primordial role as predators.'"

Is this blame-shifting drivel, as some surely will contend? Or has Mr. Gilder found the virus that is killing America's families and communities?

He says it too harshly and too categorically, perhaps, but I think he is on to something. The natural promiscuity of men combined with the increasing unreliability of men (except for sex) to produce a breed frighteningly close to Mr. Gilder's description of "optional, desperate, feral and single." We have to make men necessary again.

The Washington Post.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

Powell Lacks the Stomach to Lead

By William Safire

LONDON — Remember L. Mario Cuomo? As the 1992 field formed up, he was the media darling to be the Democrat to oppose the boring Bushies. We were all hyped up, rarin' to go, as Mario chartered a plane that would whisk him to his destiny.

Then he thought it over, lowered his sights to Albany, sawed off the limb behind all the pundits and is now practicing law and hosting a radio talk show — an honorable life, but no cigar.

This year, I was one of those who thought Colin Powell would answer history's call and enter the New Hampshire primary. Although General Powell was sensitive to criticism of his record, he was not fearful of it. In a New Yorker magazine interview, he bristled at something I had written critical of his poor Bosnia advice. When I kidded him with some glee in this space about being thin-skinned, his reaction, according to a close friend of his, was that of a grown-up: "Look, I overspoke, and Bill had a right to take a pop."

Certainly General Powell was not chased off the field by the performance last week before the National Press Club of the Hard-Right Follies; the finger-wagging by that old abortion-and-school-prayer set was mama from Heaven for a moderate Republican's nomination campaign.

We can believe his denial that the deciding factor was Alma Powell's worry, made vivid by the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, about an assassin. A combat veteran is not going to base the

decision of his life on his wife's fear of his stopping a bullet.

When it came to sacrificing privacy for power — to suffering indignity for a place at history's table — General Powell did not nearly enough of that gnawing political motivator called "fire in the belly."

Lamar Alexander has that intestinal configuration, as he cooks along while others fall out or decline to run. Phil Gramm and Pat Buchanan have it, too, as they divide the right's support. It sustains Richard Lugar, the thinking person's candidate, and Arlen Specter, the pro-choice candidate, with nobody on his side on that issue except the majority of Republican voters. And Bob Dole has the longest-burning fire in the belly of any man alive.

We in the media tend to treat FITB with disdain on the theory that only someone who does not want the top job deserves it. That belief in the icy chastity of the nonpoliticalist is the notion that attracted so many journalists and political sideliners to General Powell's side during his short-lived boom. His cool personality was their traditional preference; his nonideological candidacy their delight; his potential election their press pass to Oval Office intimacy.

The reason I let the bandwagon go by had nothing to do with General Powell's "sensible centrism" and everything to do with his long record of ex-

cessive caution. I hoped he would take the plunge, add drama to the race, win some, lose some, and then — battered but unbowed — become the running mate and learn how to become president.

That slot may yet come as a gift, whether he rules it out now or not, but his flirtation with destiny demonstrated how the last duchesses of the media have hearts too soon made glad.

Are they now to look askance at a field of their second choices — cynical about Bill Clinton, dissatisfied with Bob Dole, gazing on Newt Gingrich, bored with all the rest, in the end forced to cast a "clothespin vote"?

Those of us who admire politicians with fire in their bellies can thank Colin Powell for teaching a needed lesson after those he left in the lurch. After he cited as his reason for withdrawal "a passion... I do not yet have for political life," he applauded those possessing that much disdained passion: "I am proud that such people do come forward."

The pride is well placed. Figures like the Cuomos and the Powells, worthy men with great potential, are, by virtue of their decision to quit the arena, among those classified by Theodore Roosevelt as "timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." The leaders who make the difference are the ones determined to hang in there, with stamina and grit, unabashedly ambitious, willing to take the abuse of the people in return for the opportunity to serve.

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: Revolt in China

SHANGHAI — Letters from several English missions in the northwest provinces of China confirm that the Dzungars or Chinese Mohammedans in revolt are mostly provided with rifles of Russian manufacture. Their leader, while maintaining iron discipline among his troops, accords all foreigners benevolent protection. He has sent an ultimatum to the Imperial Government and announced his determination to at once advance towards Peking. The rebels now number over 60,000 and the Imperial forces are described as utterly incapable of resistance.

1920: League Meets

GENEVA — Preparations are almost complete for the first plenary session of the Assembly of the League of Nations. Some thirty items appear on the agenda and several are concerned with the future internal organization of the

League. One item relates to the admission into the League of States which do not figure in the Annex to the Covenant. It is believed that the Assembly will discuss the question of admitting the late enemy States. Only Bulgaria has formally applied, but the entry of Germany may be discussed.

1945: Indonesia Policy

BATAVIA — The statement of Dutch policy on Indonesia is a liberal interpretation of Queen Wilhelmina's basic declaration of 1942. But it demonstrates again how wide is the gulf between the Dutch and Indonesian Nationalist points of view. The Netherlands government is willing to grant equality in citizenship, treatment and opportunity to natives, but it is determined that the final authority of the Dutch monarch remain. Indonesian Nationalists are demanding full independence, while retaining a close business relationship with the Dutch.



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In South Africa, Liberated Cuisine



Achmal Marcus, part owner and chef at the Cape Manna restaurant in Cape Town, with a plate of his hoenderpatei, or chicken pie.

Robert Schuchman for NYT

By Marian Burros
New York Times Service

CAPE TOWN — The whirling blades of the approaching helicopter distracted us from the attention we were lavishing on our lunch in the beautiful countryside outside Cape Town. After years of isolation from the rest of the world, culinary and otherwise, South Africa is beginning to serve food that is worthy of attention.

At Bosman's, for example, a charming small restaurant in the five-star Grande Roche Hotel, about a half-hour outside Cape Town, the food and service are on a par with those of the best restaurants in the United States. The helicopter says it all. Flying in for lunch has become so common since the restaurant opened in 1991 that this mode of transport gets no more notice from the staff than the arrival of a car.

"It's fascinating to watch the impact the lifting of the sanctions has had on food," said Laurence Snyman, the doyen of restaurant critics in the Cape Town area. She was referring to international sanctions applied to South Africa because of its policy of apartheid, in place until the spring of last year. For the last 10 years, she said, "no chefs have been willing to have South African cuisine on their CVs."

All that is changing as chefs in South Africa are making the first tentative moves from butter and cream to olive oil and to the use of local ingredients in updated dishes. White South Africans have discovered the native food of the rest of Africa as well as their own Cape Malay cooking — 300 years of blending traditions of the Dutch, German, French and English with Indian and Indonesian.

The audience is changing too. Although at the more expensive restaurants I visited, the clientele was almost exclusively white, at the more moderate ones, the clientele was mixed.

To those who come from abroad, the results of South Africa's changing cuisine are simply delicious. Pairing the food with the fine wines of the Cape Town area is an added pleasure because the wines are so good and so inexpensive by American standards. Wine prices generally range from \$10 for a pleasant bottle to \$30 for the best.

Bosman's

One of the most inventive uses of ostrich was as a first course at Bosman's, in the luxuriously restored Cape Dutch manor house of the Grande Roche Hotel about 35 minutes outside Cape Town in the wine lands. Ostrich as carpaccio, as prosciutto, fried and served with red cabbage and in a terrine, accompanied by a handful of spicy bitter greens like tat soi. Whatever you expect ostrich to taste like, it doesn't. A mild, lean red meat, it takes on the flavors of ingredients with which it is paired.

Red cabbage, found frequently on South African menus, reflecting the old Afrikaans influence, accompanied very tender and lean medallions of springbok, the richness of the sharp, sweet cabbage a pleasing contrast with the barely gamey flavor of the springbok.

Cabbage appeared again on a plate of chocolate-colored ravioli stuffed with parsnips. The ravioli dough, made with cocoa, provided the right hint of bitterness to contrast with the sweetness of the parsnips.

The most popular local fish is kingklip, a mild, firm white fish that is grilled and served here with sesame noodles.

Desserts are special, particularly the ambrosial red wine sabayon ice cream, the phyllo with lemon mousse, and a ball of ice cream cleverly packaged in almond paste.

Buitenverwachting

Buitenverwachting is in the suburb of Constantia, about 20 minutes from Cape Town. Past towering English oaks, horses grazing in the pasture, vineyards in full leaf, the long drive through the gates promises something special.

To start there were oysters with spinach puree and superb crayfish on basmati rice with shrimp and black sesame seeds. The most remarkable first course was a silken duck liver parfait, made with a sweet, late harvest wine exploding with flavor. This up-to-date chef can make sublime classics.

Perfectly cooked lamb with an herb crust, served with red cabbage, this time

creamed with bacon, was accompanied by splendid gratinated potatoes. Kudu was the venison on the menu and although it was a trifle too gamey for my taste, the accompanying potato gnocchi were a knockout.

Whether one chooses kingklip, in this case served with bacon and lentils, or pork tenderloin with Dijon mustard and a fine polenta and broccoli puree, the assortment of vegetables that accompanied each entrée was not only perfectly cooked but handsomely presented.

Cape Manna

In a modest neighborhood of Cape Town, Cape Manna is one of the few restaurants serving Cape Malay food, a spicy mix of Dutch, French, German, English, Indonesian and Indian elements. Cape Malay people were among those designated "colored" during apartheid. One of the two owners, John Geis, runs the place; the other, Achmal Marcus, is Cape Malay, is chef.

This is hearty, some would say heavy, fare, and its heady aromas are the first thing you notice as you enter the tiny, simple storefront restaurant.

A platter of savory mince pies and samosas, the fried Indian pastry, or grilled crumbed garlic mussels are good beginnings. Move on to a fragrant vegetable curry, much like an Indian version but not as spicy. The bobote, a homely and comforting meat loaf with custard, is the South African national dish. A short wine list offers a selection of South African wines.

And then there is Malva pudding — butter, eggs, sugar, flour and vinegar topped with more butter, sugar, cream and vanilla — all served with whipped cream or ice cream.

And the price is right: a three-course meal without wine will cost \$10.

Private Enterprise on Safari

By Eric Taub

SINGITA GAME RESERVE. South Africa — The four torpid male lions lay on their sides, their swollen bellies heaving rhythmically, heavy from the just-completed ingestion of two impala. Unlike the other predators found in the Northern Transvaal — the cheetah and the leopard — the lion, at the head of the food chain, fears nothing. And so, this group slept soundly through the night, oblivious to the screeching of other animals, to the 400,000-candlepower beacon illuminating them in this secluded brush, and to the presence of four gawking tourists, perched in a completely exposed Land Rover just six feet away.

My wife Carol and I were able to watch this well-fed pride as we were among the 16 guests at Singita, a new South African private game reserve bordering Mozambique that, in its two years of existence, has become known as one of the most luxurious and expensive in southern Africa. Unlike the vast, popular and public Kruger National Park just a few miles away, Singita is one of a growing number of private game reserves that are being built throughout South Africa by Conservation Corp., an ecology-minded, for-profit company. Some of the continent's best reserves, including Singita, are owned by this four-year-old South African company that promotes ecotourism, an attempt to balance the demands presented by guests, conservation, local employment and profits.

At Kruger, large numbers of visitors drive their own cars along approved roads, opening windows at their peril as troops of fearless baboons climb over the vehicles. But Singita, with a capacity of 16 guests (who pay about \$1,000 a night per couple) and 15,000 hectares (37,000 acres) of land, claims the lowest tourist density in the country. Here — as well as at its four sister camps in South Africa, Londolozi Game Reserve, Ngala Game Lodge, Phinda Forest Lodge and Phinda Nyalu Lodge — guests ride in completely open four-wheel-drive vehicles that barrel across sparse fields and through brush, accompanied by armed guides and native game spotters, pursuing animals unfamiliar with the ways of man.

It's a five-hour drive from Johannesburg to Singita, the last 30 kilometers along a gravel road. Most guests arrive by small chartered plane, as we did. Our bumpy 90-minute flight from Durban took us over hundreds of kilometers of uninhabited bush, and ended with a landing on a dirt strip that had been hewn out of the woods. As we jumped out of the craft onto the dusty ground, we were met by Ian Derrick (since replaced by Bruce Simpson, who came from another Conservation Corp. lodge) and Simon Blackburn, in freshly pressed safari outfits. Their broad smiles and welcoming handshakes quickly



A group of zebras in Kruger national park, near the Singita Game Reserve.

calmed us; an assistant grabbed our luggage and put it into one Land Rover, and we climbed into the other for the 10-minute trip to the camp.

The thatched-roof Singita Lodge is as majestic as its setting is wild. Indeed, the joy of coming to Singita is as much the beauty and serenity of the accommodations as the wildlife surrounding them.

On our arrival at the lodge, our group of 11 friends and relatives, in South Africa for a family member's 50th birthday, were greeted by members of the staff (they asked our names once, and never forgot them) and were handed drinks at the tropically styled bar. The main room is filled with well-stuffed furniture, animal skins, mounted heads, a roaring oversized fireplace and a library of African art. Its absent fourth wall looks out over the Sand River and a large plain. In hand, we watched, mesmerized, as an elephant drank from the Sand River directly below the outdoor deck.

All of us rushed to grab our cameras, intent on capturing our first "sighting," not realizing that there would be hundreds more over the next two and a half days.

Rules for African wilderness living, even in these most magnificent surroundings, were simple yet essential: doors and sliding screens had to be locked at all times — not to prevent theft (there was none) but to stop baboons and monkeys from trashing the rooms. Walking alone around the premises was permitted during the day since the constant activity would scare away any animals. But at night it was forbidden to travel from the lodge to one's room without an armed guard. As a completely open reserve, there was nothing to stop curious lions or other predators from strolling across the grounds in search of something, or someone, to eat.

After a deck-side buffet lunch of paella, couscous, white wine, and an excellent rhubarb tart, we rested until our 4 P.M. tea and the start of our first drive.

We stopped a few feet from a cheetah who, despite our talking and camera clicking, took no notice. It's out that they had become used to humans. These cheetahs, because of our stillness, apparently didn't see us. And if they had, though none of us were willing to confirm it, they probably would have dashed away. It's the animals

that learn to stop fearing people — through artificial feeding, for instance — that are likely to attack.

As night approached, Pedro — the spotter seated on the front of the Land Rover — swept his high-powered flashlight across the bush. We found and followed groups of zebra, impala, baboons and one slow-moving elephant that blocked the road. Hoping to catch some hyena at work, Mark, our driver, who after two years at Singita seemed to know every inch of the place, drove 15 minutes across identical-looking fields, knocking down small bushes to get to a warren he had discovered weeks earlier. We eventually found it, a large mound of dirt with numerous entrance holes built around several trees, but all the adults were out scavenging, and the young cautiously stayed deep underground.

AS we prepared to drive back to camp for dinner, Ian's voice drifted through the radio. He had found lion tracks and was on his way to investigate. We quickly doubled back and soon, in the middle of a field, we saw those four exhausted males, their stomachs stretched and swollen with food, immobile after their recent meal. We circled them with the Land Rovers, whispering, shining the beacon just away from their heads so as not to disturb them. As we approached, the sound of the engine woke one, but he quickly went back to sleep, on his back with legs spread like a house cat. They would remain in this state of near-hibernation for at least 12 hours.

During our two-and-a-half-day stay, we went out into the bush four times, twice in the early morning, returning in time for a late breakfast, and twice at night.

We never did get to see a kill, the high point that each safari-goer hopes to experience, but we did come close. Our final encounter the day of our departure came just seconds after cheetahs had captured two impala. They were devouring them as we drove up, their fur soaked in their prey's blood, the sound of cracking skulls and the sight of disconnected extremities adding a morbid touch to a natural cycle of life.

Eric Taub, a free-lance writer and television executive, wrote this for The New York Times.

Perks for the Top Stratum of Fliers

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

THE watchword "shackle me with chains of gold" applies to corporate high fliers whose loyalty is rewarded with fat bonuses and stock options, insurance and retirement packages along with a fancy title, reserved parking space and a corner office with signed prints. Plus use of the corporate jet when the chairman's not using it for Glen Eagles.

Airlines have devised similar diabolical schemes to reward "high yield" business travelers with "very-frequent-flyer" status. The idea is that you progressively pile up perks and privileges with the more miles you fly, rising through a hierarchy of "elite" levels, depending on whether you reach silver, gold, platinum or diamond or beyond.

VFFs earn miles faster than ordinary run-of-the-mill frequent fliers (bonus miles — sometimes double miles — every time you fly) and get more liberal upgrades, waived blackout dates or capacity controls when you come to redeem miles, waiting-list priority, preferential seating, "dedicated" reservation and help lines, extra baggage allowance, access to lounges whatever class you fly and, perhaps, most valuable of all, recognition and tender loving care when things go wrong.

Loyalty is not measured in miles alone, but in how much revenue you bring the airline. Few airlines outside North America allow you to earn miles on any published fare or allow you to use miles for upgrades. Typically, European and Asian carriers only give miles on fully flexible fares.

(Lufthansa's Miles & More is a notable exception, allowing you to earn miles and upgrade on any published fare — but there is no elite program.)

British Airways has raised the stakes for membership in its Executive Club. New rules, effective Nov. 1, require you to fly on full-fare tickets to earn points toward elite status and miles for free travel. It takes 700 "Executive Club Points" (based on trips and class of travel) to reach Silver, and 1,700 to reach Gold.

Silver members get the run of 190 airport lounges, priority check-in and parking privileges; Gold members get perks such as

The Frequent Traveler

a guaranteed seat, free travel insurance, and aid from a "special services" staff at airports. There are no upgrades, but flash your gold card and you are likely to be moved to a better class. You now get double points for traveling business class and triple points for first.

BA's program is catching flak because you cannot earn points or miles on discounted or restricted tickets. So many executives find themselves unable to reach elite levels — or find themselves relegated from Gold to Silver to Blue — or no recognition at all.

"I hear a lot of emotional talk from people about what level they have reached and aid from a 'special services' staff at airports. There are no upgrades, but flash your gold card and you are likely to be moved to a better class. You now get double points for traveling business class and triple points for first."

"Maybe you're downgraded a tier be-

cause your job or travel pattern has changed. The more sophisticated programs are starting to recognize people who influence travel decisions as well as those who actually travel, modeling profiles through the database, assessing your value to them and tailoring benefits/rewards and communications to your specific needs. We're almost talking about a one-on-one relationship."

Airlines like Swissair, Lufthansa, and Cathay Pacific have been doing this for years through their VIP clubs long before frequent-flyer programs were invented — the flip side to Groucho Marx's "I wouldn't want to belong to a club that would have me as a member."

Membership by "invitation only" was highly valued and carried a lot of prestige. The ultimate status symbol in those days was to walk into a VIP lounge with a green boarding pass stuck in your top pocket.

These days, VIP clubs are more democratic but just as valuable. Cathay Pacific's Marco Polo Club (separate from Passages, the FFP formed by Cathay, Singapore and Malaysia airlines) requires 80,000 kilometers in any class (or 25 flights in first or business) for Gold, and 250,000 (or 60 flights) for Diamond within 12 months.

Focus your mileage on one or two carriers and aim for at least the first level of VFF status, which typically requires 25,000 to 30,000 miles flown in one year, although some lines allow short-haul travelers access to elite status based on flight segments rather than miles.

Read the fine print. Miles earned on partner airlines, hotels, credit cards and car rentals may not count. Some FFPs count qualification by calendar year; others calculate the year from your first credit flight.

THE MOVIE GUIDE

Fair Game

Directed by Andrew Sipes. U.S.

And it's strike one against Cindy Crawford, who is gloriously miscast as a lawyer named Kate McQueen in "Fair Game," her Hollywood film debut. The lustrous supermodel may yet salvage her fledgling movie career. But it won't be by portraying characters who have to spout professional jargon. The film, based on a novel by Paula Gosling, written by Charlie Fisher and directed by Andrew Sipes, is one long explosion-riddled chase. Kate is joined in her flight from a gang of ex-KGB assassins by Max Kirkpatrick (William Baldwin), a Dade County, Florida, homicide detective. Unflappable against odds that would make even James Bond think twice, Baldwin moves from action sequence to action sequence with a graceful efficiency, registering just enough amusement to suggest that this is a piece of cake. Naturally, the action pauses

long enough for Kate and Max to fall for each other. While aboard a freight train, an incipient fist fight suddenly melts into a clinch. But the actors' carefully posed embraces generate few sparks. The only heat that rises from the movie is mechanical. The pair's pursuers are technological wizards equipped with heat sensors and with decoding devices that enable them to track their prey via satellite. (Stephen Holden, NYT)

Nelly et Mr. Arnaud

Directed by Claude Sautet. France.

When Nelly (Emmanuelle Béart) meets Monsieur Arnaud (Michel Serrault), the setting is a left-bank café and the table talk is about money. Nelly is married to a man who has stopped functioning (Charles Berling). Arnaud is rich, alone and much older. Arnaud offers Nelly a big check, no strings. Of course the strings — an attachment — soon show when he takes her home to type his

memoirs. Impulsively, she leaves her husband and integrates the lonely man's life; he dictates to her, and sometimes, she dictates to him. They never touch. In Sautet's elegant films, confrontations are nuanced duets; strange love creeps upon them, like night music. As in other movies the director has made over the past 35 years, friends, relations, ex-spouses interrupt, poke and pry, disturb their communion. This could only be Paris — the cafés are cozy, the restaurants animated — and you twitch in your seat, wondering whether the company isn't a little ingrown, and boring. Magic is made of such irritating moments, in the delicate balance between this quotidian and something beyond, surreal. Serrault's interpretation of a man who is not really *sympathique* is surreal in itself. Béart, whether she is taking dictation or giving it, is graceful but rather absent-minded, a perfectly good actress who never quite reaches the high notes. (Joan Dupont, IHT)

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THE ARTS GUIDE

THE CAR COLUMN

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires
Teatro Colon, tel: (1) 382-3289. A Marilyn Horne recital. Nov. 15, 22.

BRITAIN

London
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 438-7438, open daily. To Jan. 25: "David Hockney: Works on Paper 1969-1995." More than 100 paintings, gouaches, drawings and watercolors including portraits, still-lives and stage designs.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague
Státní Opera, tel: 24-21-50-01. "The Magic Flute." Directed by Ladislav Stros with Natalja Melnik and Ladislav Mejnek. Nov. 12 and 16.

FRANCE

Paris
Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: (1) 44-78-13-00, closed Tuesdays. Continuing to Feb. 12: "Edouard Manet: le Sexe de l'Art." 500 works by over 100 international artists tentatively document gender in art.
Grand Palais, tel: (1) 44-13-17-17, closed Tuesdays. Continuing to Jan. 1: "Cézanne." About 200 paintings, watercolors and drawings.
Musée Marmottan-Claude Monet, tel: (1) 42-24-07-02, closed Mondays. Continuing to Jan. 7: "De la Brun à Vullard." Works by French painters from the 17th to the 20th century.
Petit Palais, tel: (1) 42-85-12-73, closed Mondays. To Feb. 25: "L'Ombre du Vésuve." 80 Southern Italian items from the Naples Archaeological Museum dating back to the 6th century B.C. as well as unearthed treasures from Pompeii and Herculaneum.

GERMANY

Bonn
Oper der Stadt Bonn, tel: (228) 7-25-1. "Don Giovanni." Directed by Roberto Cullini and Helmut Schäfer, conducted by Thomas Hengelbrock. Shue Ohtsuka, with Ildarado D'Arhangelo/Michael Volle, Turid Karlsen/Maria Vitali. Nov. 10, 16 and 24.

Düsseldorf
Stadtmuseum, tel: (211) 889-6170, closed Mondays. To Dec. 3: "Ruth Lauterbach-Bachmann: Photographien." 50 photographs from the 1930s to the 1960s. The artist devoted her work to documenting painter Carl Lauterbach after their marriage in 1958.

ITALY

Florence
Teatro Comunale, tel: (55) 211-158. Verdi's "Macbeth." Directed by Pao-



From Naples: Artemis of Ephesus in a Paris show.

Decina, conducted by James Conlon, with Alessandro Agache, Deborah Voigt/Barbara De Melo and Dmitri Kavrakos. Nov. 12, 14, 16 and 18.

JAPAN

Tokyo
Setagaya Art Museum, tel: (3) 3415-5011, open daily except 2d and 4th Mondays. Continuing to Nov. 19: "An Inside Story: African Art of Our Time." Focuses on two trends of black African art: works by artists professionally trained in art schools, and works spontaneously created by popular artists. The exhibition will travel to several Japanese venues.

SCOTLAND

Glasgow
The Burrell Collection, tel: (41) 339-7833, open daily. To April 14: "Visions of Spain: Paintings from the Stirling Maxwell Collection." More than 30 works from the Glasgow Museum collection of Spanish paintings. Includes works by Goya, El Greco, Velázquez, Murillo and Claudio Coello.

SWITZERLAND

Martigny
Fondation Pierre Gianadda, tel: (26) 22-39-78, open daily. To Jan. 21: "Nathalie S. Gontcharova and Michel F. Larionov." Features paintings, drawings and graphic works by

the two Russian artists. They were part of a donation to France by the Russian government.

Zurich
Kunsthaus Zürich, tel: (1) 251-67-65, closed Mondays. To Feb. 25: "100 Jahre Kino: Illusion-Emotion-Realität." A survey of the multiple aspects of the seventh art, and the elements that enable film to conjure its illusions convincingly for the masses. Themes include heroes and anti-heroes, breaking taboos, violence, sex and travels and documents the roles of music, lighting, sets, actors and directors.

UNITED STATES

Houston
Museum of Fine Arts, tel: (713) 639-7300, closed Mondays. To Jan. 2: "Visions of Love and Life: Pre-Raphaelite Art from the Birmingham Collection, England." 100 paintings, drawings, sculptures and stained glass panels by Pre-Raphaelite painters William Holman Hunt, Dante Gabriel Rossetti and John Everett Millais who sought to return art to the primitive forms found in the art of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

New York
Brooklyn Museum, tel: (718) 639-5000, closed Mondays and Tuesdays. To Jan. 14: "Expressionism to Neo-Expressionism: 20th-Century German Prints." Woodcuts, intaglio prints, and lithographs from German artists such as Nolde, Kirchner, Kollwitz and Baselitz.
Museum of Modern Art, tel: (212) 708-9400, closed Wednesdays. To Jan. 23: "Piet Mondrian: 1872-1944."

Pittsburgh
Carnegie Museum of Art, tel: (412) 622-3131, closed Mondays. To Feb. 16: "1995 Carnegie International." The museum, founded in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie, celebrates its Centennial with a survey of contemporary art worldwide. Paintings, sculptures, film and video installations by artists from 18 countries including Nobuyoshi Araki (Japan), Doris Salcedo (Colombia) and Georg Baselitz (Germany).

CLOSING SOON

On Nov. 12: "Ilya Kabakov: Ein Mar von Stimmen." Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel.
On Nov. 12: "Poussin: Works on Paper, Drawings from the Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II." Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.
On Nov. 12: "Flemish Drawings of the 16th and 17th Centuries." The J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu.
On Nov. 13: "Landscapes from the Van Gogh Museum and the H.W. Meesdag Museum." Yasuda Kasei Togo Memorial Museum of Art, Tokyo.
On Nov. 15: "Chet's d'Ouane du XIXe siècle." Fondation Mona Bismarck, Paris.

Ford Fiesta Si: about \$15,000.
Engine: four-cylinder 16-valve, 1242cc, 75 bhp.
Five-speed manual gearbox.
Maximum speed: 170 km/h.
Acceleration: 0-100 km/h in 12.0 seconds.
Average fuel economy: about 6.6 liters/100 km.



New Fiesta: Small Ford With a Difference

By Gavin Green

FOR a car with such a festive name, the Ford Fiesta has always been something of a dullard. It's an honest, reliable thing that gets you there cheaply and faithfully but without much finesse. What you see is what you get. What else could you possibly want from a small car?

These days, the answer is: quite a lot. A car as a mere transport tool is no longer enough, not when you can buy a Renault Clio or a Volkswagen Polo or a Fiat Punto that also gets you there, but does it with flair. These are small cars in which the journey is as much fun as the destination (sometimes better). They look sporty, drive in a lively fashion, handle and ride with élan, and have the sort of mechanical sophistication hitherto found only in bigger cars. They're bigger, inside, than the Fiesta too.

Enter the new Fiesta. Or rather the newish Fiesta, a car with quite a lot of carryover hardware but many brand new bits. The body is different, even if some of the basic architecture is carried over (wheelbase, positioning of the seats). There's a new family of engines too.

Ford has never been very good at engines — especially four-cylinder engines — and whenever you put this to

the Ford engineers they're at a loss to understand why.

It's not as if they haven't tried. Their most recent effort was the "Zetec" family of motors built in Bridgeport, Wales, that powered everything from top Fiestas to the Scorpios. Despite an impressive spec and a new high-tech factory, it was just as bad as the other four-cylinder Ford motors — ooisy, vibratory, and not all that fuel-efficient either.

So this time around Ford has sensibly given up and handed the job to Yamaha, which, being a motorcycle expert, knows a thing or two about little engines that sing and sip rather than burble and slurp.

The new Zetec SE engine is, initially, available only as a 1.25-liter unit, so if you fancy an engine smaller or bigger in your new Fiesta you're stuck with the old vibrators. For a while, at any rate. The Zetec SE will eventually spawn a whole four-cylinder family. Next up is a 1.4, scheduled for 1996.

The new engine is the biggest revelation about the latest Fiesta. It's probably the best engine in the small-car class, and that's the first time we've ever been able to say that about a new small Ford.

Revised suspension also brings about a handling and ride metamorphosis: That bone-shaking, wobbly feel

of the old Fiesta at speed is replaced by a setup offering real poise.

Fiestas have always been solidly built; they're much less rattly than Renaults or Peugeots or Fiats. The new one is better than ever. They've also had very "grown-up" looking cabins, with a Mercedes-like freedom from gimmicky and good-quality plastics and fabrics.

The new one doesn't disappoint. In fact, it gives the little car a real big-car feel from behind the wheel. Pity that feeling doesn't extend to the back seat. Because the wheelbase stays the same — which presumably saved Ford millions — rear legroom stays mean.

If you carry people regularly in the rear, stick to a Polo or a Punto. No such problem if you're always in the front. The front seats are excellent, as comfortable as those in luxury cars costing five times as much.

THE dull old looks are also gone. The new look sports Ford's oval grille theme, which we've already seen on the Scorpio and Escort (next year's facelifted Mondeo follows). Ford says it boldly breaks away from the amorphous bar-of-soap look, as seen on most small European cars of the late '80s and early '90s (and a look Ford invented with the Sierra back in '82). I say it

looks like a fish. Why has Ford turned from the bath tub to the pood for design inspiration?

Ford's design boss in Europe, Fritz Mayhew, was horrified when I suggested that the Fiesta looks as much like a carp as a car. At least it's distinctive.

It drives distinctively too: briskly, surefootedly and with real spirit. Like most oow-breed baby cars, this one can cruise comfortably at high speed on the freeway yet behaves like a traditional small car once you're back in town. It's handily sized, easy to park. Optional power steering helps. Also on the option list are air-conditioning, leather upholstery, anti-lock brakes, CD stacker and improved automatic transmission — all the goodies traditionally associated with big cars.

Drive a really top-notch baby car like the new Fiesta and it is hard to see the point of buying bigger — unless you regularly fill the backseat. This Fiesta has the sophistication of a bigger car but without the fuel bills, depreciation and insurance hassles.

And although every drive isn't exactly a holiday, this Fiesta will put you in a festive mood much more than any small Ford of recent memory.

Gavin Green is the editor of Car magazine.
Next: BMW 5-series.

AMSTERDAM ANTALYA BRUSSELS COLOGNE DORTMUND DÜSSELDORF HEIDELBERG

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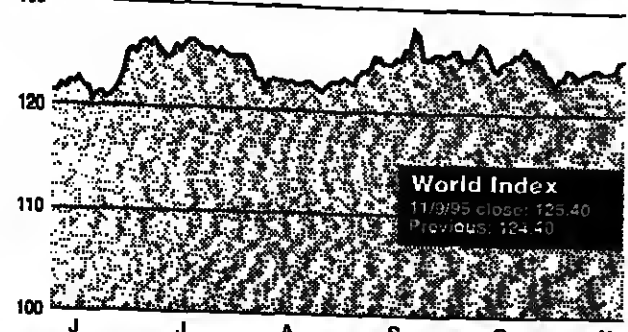
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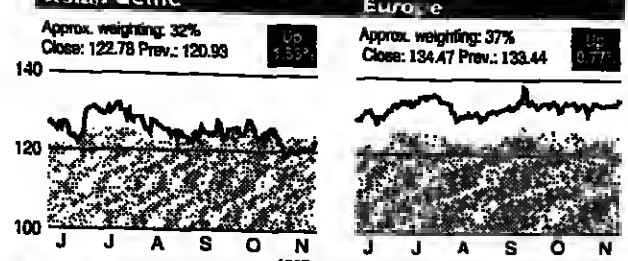


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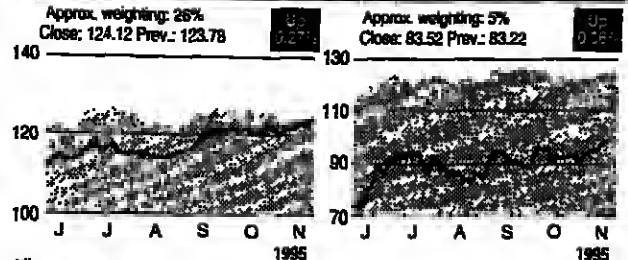
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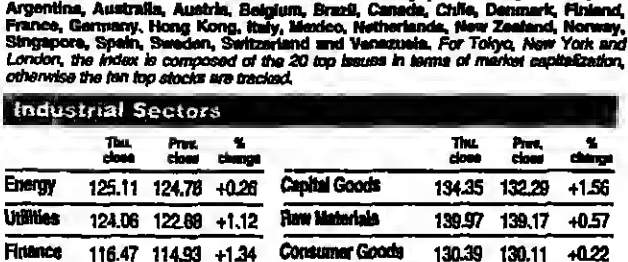
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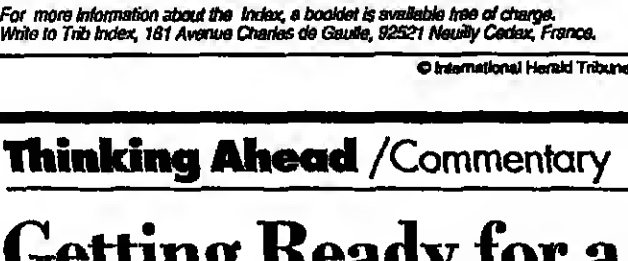
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Air France Chief Faces Big Test

Handling of Strike Is Called Critical to Airline's Future

By Max Berley
Special to the IHT

PARIS — Even if the chairman of Air France, Christian Blanc, wins his stand-off with striking cabin crews this week, the future remains cloudy for the unprofitable airline, analysts say.

Mr. Blanc's handling of this strike, they said, was likely to determine whether the airline stood any chance of becoming competitive by the time the European airline market was fully deregulated in 1997.

"The clock is ticking for Air France," said Guy Kekwick, a European airlines analyst at Lehman Brothers in London.

"More than anything, Blanc has to address productivity, which is below industry standards, and costs that are above standards."

Air France cabin personnel launched a three-day strike Thursday to protest a plan to offer buyouts to senior personnel, who would be replaced by younger and lower-paid workers. The strike this week is the sixth strike this year to protest Mr. Blanc's restructuring plan.

The buyout offer is part of a three-year plan drafted by Mr. Blanc to bring a 30 percent productivity gain to Air France and to bring the airline back to profit by 1997.

The French airline is expected to post a 1.5 billion franc (\$306 million) loss this year after losses of 3.3 billion francs last year and more than 8 billion francs in the preceding year.

Air France said it was able to provide 80 percent of its flights Thursday and expected to be able to maintain a similar level of service Friday and Saturday.

But Mr. Blanc also faces another challenge: The final installment of 5 billion francs of a total 20 billion francs in state aid he was granted when he took over as head of the airline in 1993 could be held up by European authorities if he is unable to implement his restructuring plan.

Analysts say Mr. Blanc desperately needs the cash to carry out his plan and that the outcome of the strike this week is likely to be of critical importance to the decision made in Brussels.

"He cannot back down," an airline analyst in Paris said. "Not only is the future competitiveness of Air France at stake, but his handling of the strike will determine whether he gets the additional cash he needs to finish the restructuring."

Underlining the importance he attaches to the productivity gains, Mr. Blanc wrote in a letter to the striking unions dated Nov. 6, "Your victory would be a defeat for the company's wage-earners, cabin personnel included, as it would sign the airline's death warrant."

When the European airline industry is fully deregulated, other European airlines will be able to challenge Air France and its domestic arm Air Inter, which is expected to lose 500 million francs in 1995.

"The productivity gains are critical because air fares are coming down steadily and margins are being squeezed," Mr. Kekwick said. "Future gains will be

made on the premium market, and what will matter is how the airline racks up with the public." If Air France's image suffers too much from the repeated strikes, it could lose a large share of this critical market, he said.

But Mr. Kekwick said Air France retained some assets and that Mr. Blanc could still win his challenge.

"There is potential for Air France," he said. "We've got a hub that is a core city in Western Europe and not out on the periphery, and they already have the critical mass needed." He added that other airlines might have trouble competing in the European market because the major airports of Europe are already overloaded and will probably not immediately be able to accept more traffic.

"In any event, the government is not simply going to walk away from the state-owned carrier," he said. But another analyst was less optimistic. She said that Mr. Blanc had already recognized that the battle for Air France was lost and that the airline could not break even by 1997.

Separately, unions representing employees of France's government-owned toll autoroutes called on members to hold a 24-hour strike Friday to protest the failure of wage talks held Oct. 20, Agence France-Presse reported.

The new strike comes just before the Armistice Day holiday weekend. Work stoppages by autoroute employees generally result in free use of the strike-affected sections of the toll highways and thus in large revenue losses.

France Cuts Key Rate and Eases Lending

Reuters

PARIS — The Bank of France on Thursday rewarded the government for putting deficit-fighting at the top of its political agenda by relaxing lending terms and cutting a key interest rate.

The independent central bank, which jacked up short-term lending rates in early October to defend the franc, lopped 0.25 of a percentage point off its ceiling lending rate, reducing it to 6.35 percent.

In a surprise easing of borrowing terms, it also said it would offer banks emergency funds on a five-to-10 day basis, replacing 24-hour funding put in place Oct. 6 when

the franc came under assault.

The action followed President Jacques Chirac's rescheduling of his center-right government Tuesday — after less than six months in power — aimed at forming a streamlined cabinet to wage the austerity fight.

Analysts had forecast a rate cut but had not expected the bank to reopen the five-to-10 day window until after the government presented proposals next week to reduce France's social-security deficit, perceived as the key to reducing total debt.

The magnitude of the bank's action suggested it was confident that the measures,

to be presented by Prime Minister Alain Juppé, would be hard-hitting, economists said. "It is a very strong message which signals that they are confident about the unfolding of the debate on social security," said Valerie Assolot, an economist at Credit Lyonnais.

The franc has recovered sharply since Mr. Chirac played up his commitment to fiscal orthodoxy in a televised speech two weeks ago, promising to make the assault on deficits his top priority.

On Thursday in Paris, the Deutsche mark closed at 3.4424 francs, down from 3.4553 francs at the close Wednesday.

Mexican Peso Rebounds From A Record Low

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MEXICO CITY — The peso slid to a record low Thursday but more than regained its lost ground by the end of the session as foreign investors poured into the market to hunt for bargains.

The dollar settled back to close at about 7.55 pesos after surging as high as a record 8.30 pesos. It closed Wednesday at 7.75 pesos.

The bargain-hunters drove up Mexico's Bolsa by 76.62 points, or 3.43 percent, to 2,311.09. Shares had fallen almost 18 percent in the past month before the rebound Thursday.

The recent run on the currency forced the government to offer exceptionally high interest rates of 54.24 percent at Tuesday's weekly auction of 28-day securities in hopes of persuading investors to keep their dollars here.

The new securities rate is compelling banks to raise rates on consumer loans well into the 60 percent range, threatening a renewed slump in purchases of automobiles, houses and other durable goods.

As a result, the high rates may delay Mexico's recovery from its worst recession since 1986. The country's gross domestic product fell 10.5 percent in the second quarter and 5.8 percent in the first half and is expected to drop by between 5 percent and 6 percent for all of 1995.

Government officials had predicted the economy would rebound and post 3 percent growth next year, but with rates at current levels, that forecast is not likely to be fulfilled, analysts said.

An indicator of the country's financial volatility, analysts said, was the reaction to a report last Friday by a Dow Jones correspondent that mentioned "ru-

mors" circulating in Mexico City that military leaders were pressuring President Ernesto Zedillo to resign.

The Associated Press-Dow Jones news service transmitted the report early Friday, and within minutes speculators began dumping pesos for dollars.

The Mexican Senate unanimously approved a resolution calling for a federal investigation of "false reports" that had prompted the run on the peso. (Bloomberg, Reuters, WP)

Bundesbank Steps Up Pressure On State Deficits

Bloomberg Business News

LONDON — The Bundesbank on Thursday stepped up pressure on European governments to cut their deficits in order to forge a common currency as solid as the Deutsche mark.

Oskar Issing, the German central bank's chief economist, said Germany needed guarantees of lasting debt reduction to persuade its people to abandon the mark for a European currency by its scheduled 1999 start-up.

"Public acceptance of the future European currency depends crucially on the confidence in the stability of that currency," Mr. Issing said.

Another Bundesbank official, council member Franz-Christoph Zeidler of the bank's Bavarian branch, said in Brussels that Germany wanted to prevent countries from meeting the Maastricht treaty's criteria for a single currency in a "one-time fiscal feast or a phase of economic fair weather," only to lose control of deficits later on.

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

Getting Ready for a Single Currency

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Despite heavy Anglo-Saxon skepticism, there is a fair chance that a group of European countries will decide to go ahead with plans for a single currency in little more than two years' time. If they succeed, the new currency could rapidly rival the dollar and upset world financial markets.

Yet there seems to be a widespread reluctance to consider all the implications. Few people in the United States have yet thought through the probable impact on the dollar. In Europe, politicians are not always straight with their voters about which countries are likely to be among the first to join the new currency and why.

The main reason Americans don't care is that they do not think it is going to happen. U.S. economists are much more negative about the single currency's chances than their European colleagues. Americans, like the British, often underestimate the determination of continental Europeans to press ahead.

Of course there are doubts in Europe too, and for good reason. A recession could throw the whole project off course, as could German reluctance to give up the Deutsche mark or a failure by France to bring its economy into line.

Even if growth continues on its present path, only one or two countries may meet the tough economic criteria for joining the currency when the time comes early in 1998 to decide who qualifies.

Nevertheless, a report by Dresdner Bank AG of Germany concludes that the most likely scenario is that seven or eight countries will launch the currency on time. They are Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and perhaps Denmark. That view is shared by many European analysts.

If the single currency goes ahead, C. Randall Henning of Washington's American University says in a study, it will mark

The U.S. should start paying more attention to the implications of an EU currency union.

the biggest change in the international monetary system since the adoption of floating exchange rates in 1973.

It could cause major problems. Once countries participating in the single currency stop foreign-exchange transactions among themselves, they will no longer need most of their dollar reserves, which could then be dumped on the market, destabilizing the dollar.

Investors could also rush into assets denominated in the new currency, pushing its value up too high. The complex procedures for deciding the new currency's exchange rate could also "seriously compromise international monetary cooperation," Mr. Henning says.

Mr. Henning wants Washington to start figuring out how to deal with these problems in consultations with the European Union and in the Group of Seven leading industrial countries. The aim should be to create a "benign monetary environment" into which the currency could be born.

Dresdner Bank has different concerns. It fears that German authorities are creating unrealistic expectations by continually insisting that only countries strictly fulfilling the economic criteria be allowed to join the single currency.

"Everyone knows there will be political compromises," Dresdner says. What the markets will insist on is a "sensible" compromise that is not so lax as to impair the new currency's status from the start. Countries that are clearly not ready, such as Italy and Spain, will have to be excluded until they are.

If a compromise can be reached, there is no reason the single currency should not be as strong as the mark and the new European central bank as austere as the Bundesbank, as German public opinion is insisting. The new bank will be especially strict at first to establish credibility.

The other countries have already agreed to virtually every condition Germany demanded for creating the single currency. The Germans should stop complaining so much. The Italians, and others likely to be left out, should stop deluding themselves that they will be ready on time. And the Americans should start paying more attention.

Sony Climbs to Profit as Sales Grow

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Sony Corp. said Thursday that strong sales of audio and computer-related products helped pull it to profit in the first half of its financial year, reversing a steep loss in the year-earlier period.

Sony's operations worldwide earned a net 47.9 billion yen (\$464 million) in the six months to Sept. 30, compared with a loss of 280 billion yen a year earlier, when the company wrote off the value of its movie studio holdings.

Sales rose 11 percent, to 2.05 trillion yen.

Despite the turnaround, Sony said the results were below its expectations because of the dollar's appreciation against the yen.

Because Sony sells more than two-thirds of its products outside Japan, it must convert revenue in different currencies back into yen, making it susceptible to exchange rate movements.

Sumio Sano, Sony's managing director,

said the company lost 32 billion yen in profit in the most recent quarter because it hedged forward contracts at a high yen rate. When the yen then fell against the dollar, it deprived the company of the benefits selling at the lower rate would have created.

Sony said sales in Japan jumped 27 percent, to 636 billion yen, in the first half, the biggest increase by market. The increase was fueled by strong demand for its PlayStation home video game player and for computer-related equipment, such as compact disk read-only memory drives.

Sales in the United States edged up 2 percent, to \$61.5 billion yen, while sales in Europe rose 9 percent, to 440 billion yen. Other sales were up 7 percent, to 410 billion yen, mostly reflecting strong sales in Asia.

Sony's film division continued to be a drag on profit, with sales declining nearly 7 percent in the half to 121.5 billion yen. But Sony said the film division was "gaining stability." The films "Desperado" and "The Net" had been box-office hits in the

United States, and "Bad Boys" performed strongly in international markets.

The company's music division also posted strong results, getting help in the most recent quarter from releases of Mariah Carey's "Daydream" album and Michael Bolton's greatest hits.

Sony said that during the second quarter, unit sales of 8mm videocassette recorders had increased because of the popularity of camcorders equipped with liquid crystal displays.

For the year to March, Sony raised its profit forecast to 155 billion yen from 100 billion yen.

Sony said it expected sales of computer-related equipment and video game players to remain strong worldwide in the second half of its business year.

But the company still has problems with large stockpiles of unsold goods in the United States and Europe and will have to adjust production, Mr. Sano said. (AFP, Reuters, Bloomberg, AP)

Softbank to Buy Ziff For \$2.1 Billion

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Softbank Corp. said Thursday it would buy Ziff-Davis Publishing Co. from Forstmann Little & Co. for \$2.1 billion, a purchase that would make the Japanese software company the largest computer magazine publisher in the world.

Softbank is paying \$1.8 billion while MAC Inc., its largest shareholder, will contribute \$300 million.

With Ziff, Softbank adds PC Magazine, PC Week and other popular computing titles to its portfolio. The company, already Japan's largest publisher of magazines, has been on a buying spree in the United States that has included Comdex, the world's largest computer trade show, and several joint ventures.

"There aren't many companies growing as fast as we are," said Masayoshi Son, Softbank's president.

Although the Ziff-Davis deal had been announced previously, Softbank only disclosed the price on Thursday.

Mr. Son estimated that the acquisition would add 6.7 billion yen (\$65.3 million) to Softbank's current, or pretax, profit during the year that ends in March 1997. According to the agreement, Softbank will complete payment by Feb. 29, 1996.

"Everyone's waiting for Mr. Son to make a false step, but he just doesn't seem to make mistakes," said Richard May, an analyst at West LB Securities in Tokyo. "His positioning in the U.S. market has been very shrewd."

Softbank will pay for part of the purchase with a share issue valued at 66.2 billion yen. The remaining 118.8 billion yen, which includes issuance fees and commissions, will be raised mostly through bonds. Mr. Son said he expected the company to be debt-free in five years.

Forstmann Little, the New York investment company that beat out Softbank 11 months ago in a bidding war for Ziff, may be the big winner, analysts said. Forstmann, which paid \$1.4 billion for

Ziff, has been able to reap a \$700 million gain.

Ziff-Davis owns four of the top nine computer publications, including the top two, PC Magazine, with a circulation of 1.1 million, and PC Week.

The purchase will also give Softbank a stake in electronic publishing through Ziff's ZD Net service. ZD Net provides computer-oriented information over major U.S. on-line services and the Internet.

Mr. Son founded Softbank in 1981 after getting a degree in economics from the University of California at Berkeley, where he also invented a multilingual pocket translator that became the prototype for the Wizard, an electronic organizer made by Sharp Corp.

Mr. Son said he hoped to increase the number of titles Ziff-Davis handled to 1,000 from the current 130 and increase total circulation to 50 million from the current 9 million worldwide. (Bloomberg, AP)

U.K. Sells Its State Rail-Car Owners

Reuters

LONDON — The government said Thursday it had sold the three rolling stock-leasing companies, known as ROSCOs, that own the state railway's 11,000 passenger trains and carriages for £1.8 billion (\$2.82 billion).

"This is Britain's largest-ever privatization by direct sale," said Sir George Young, Britain's transport minister. "It has attracted substantial interest from international institutions from all major capital markets." The companies were sold to three private consortia.

Sir George said the sale would put more

than £2.5 billion into state coffers, as £800 million in cash accumulated by the ROSCOs was to be paid back to the government before completion of the sale next month.

Angel Train Contracts was sold for £672.5 million to a consortium led by the former British Rail InterCity chief, John Prideaux, and backed by Nomura Securities Co. and the leasing company Babcock & Brown.

Porterbrook Leasing Co. was sold to a management buyout team backed by the venture capital firm Charterhouse Development Capital for £527 million.

Charterhouse said staff and management would be able to share in as much as 20 percent of the equity share capital with senior debt facilities fully underwritten by Bankers Trust New York Corp.

Porterbrook reported operating profit of £90 million for the year ended March 31, on sales of £267 million.

Eversholt Leasing Ltd. has been sold to management with backing from a group of funds led by Candover Investments PLC for £580 million, with debt capital underwritten by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Fuji Bank Ltd., Société Générale and Royal Bank of Scotland PLC.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates										Eurocurrency Deposits									
	\$	£	DM	FF	₹	₪	₹	₹	₹		Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Pound Sterling	French Franc	Yen	₹		
Amsterdam	1.59	2.37	1.17	0.25	0.007	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	1 month	5% - 5%	5% - 4	2 - 2%	6% - 6%	5% - 5%	7% - 6	5% - 5%		
Brussels	0.216	0.40	0.20	0.045	0.0007	0.00003	0.00003	0.00003	0.00003	3 months	5% - 5%	5% - 4	1% - 2%	6% - 7%	5% - 6	1% - 6	5% - 5%		
Frankfurt	1.62	2.31		0.29	0.009	0.0002	0.00003	0.00003	0.00003	6 months	5% - 5%	5% - 4	1% - 2%	6% - 6%	5% - 5%	1% - 6	5% - 5%		
London (all)	1.575		2.27	1.27	2.002	0.002	0.0001	0.00003	0.00003	1 year	5% - 5%	5% - 4	1% - 2	6% - 6%	5% - 5%	1% - 6	5% - 5%		
Not Available																			
Milan	1.92	2.75	1.28	0.28	0.008	0.0002	0.00003	0.00003	0.00003										
Paris	1.57	1.91	1.02	0.25	0.007	0.0001	0.00003	0.00003	0.00003										
New York (all)	1.00	1.50	0.79	0.01	0.0002	0.00002	0.00002	0.00002	0.00002										
Porto	4.85	7.26	3.62		0.009	0.0003	0.00003	0.00003	0.00003										
Tokyo	1.05	1.61	0.71	0.01	0.0002	0.00002	0.00002	0.00002	0.00002										
Toronto	1.35	2.10	0.99	0.26	0.008	0.0002	0.00003	0.00003	0.00003										
Zurich	1.10	1.65	0.85	0.24	0.007	0.0002	0.00003	0.00003	0.00003										
1 ECU	1.20	1.80	0.95	0.02	0.0007	0.00007	0.00007	0.00007	0.00007										
1 SDR	1.40	2.10	1.10	0.03	0.0009	0.00009	0.00009	0.00009	0.00009										
Coverings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris and Zurich. Rates in other cities not available.										Sources: Reuters, Lloyd's Bank. Rates applicable to interbank deposits of \$1 million minimum for equivalent.									
Toronto rates of 3 p.m. To buy one dollar: Units of 100: Not quoted: N/A: not available.										Key Money Rates									
To buy one pound: To buy one dollar: Units of 100: Not quoted: N/A: not available.										United States									
										Discount rate									
										Prime rate									
										Federal funds									
										3-month CDs									
										Commercial paper 180 days									
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BASF Sees Slowdown After Surge In Quarter

BT's Earnings Edge Up **But Price Regulations Hold Back Gain**

Electrolux Profit Advances 4%

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

to oversee the market, but the junior coalition member, the Free Democratic Party, wants the Federal Cartel Office to take over the job.

Bloomberg Business News universal service after a certain period. The firm

Federal Cartel Office to take over the job.

Reuters Electric and Siemens AG of Italy have offered to supply 100 MW of power to the plant.

disagreement this year with the board of General Electric over

Stock in General Electric rose 4 pence, to 319 (\$5.04).

Frankfurt DAX

2300
2220
2140
2060
1980
1900

London FTSE 100 Index

3600
3450
3300
3150
3000

Paris CAC 40

2100
2000
1900
1800
1700

1990 1991 1992 1993

1995	1995	1995	1995	1995
Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EOE	652.72	451.31	+0.31
Brussels	Stock Exchange	7,906.48	7,794.36	+0.16
Frankfurt	DAX	2,192.62	2,172.30	+0.94
Copenhagen	Stock Market	368.11	366.47	+0.46
Helsinki	HEX General	1,930.43	1,902.25	+1.48
Oslo	OBX	994.95	992.22	+0.69
London	FTSE 100	3,541.60	3,537.10	+0.13
Lisbon	Stock Exchange	N/A	298.55	-
Milan	MIBTEL	5,172.00	9,345.00	-1.85
Paris	CAC 40	1,852.63	1,866.33	-0.73
Stockholm	SK 16	1,633.89	1,652.25	+0.09
Vicenza	ATX	624.56	921.88	+0.23
Zurich	SPI	2,033.74	2,023.95	+0.48

Adidas AG is increasing the number of its retail outlets

• **Ladbroke Group PLC's** 1995 profit will be lower because of

Chemical and Physical Properties of Polymers 41

Gold output from Amantay-lau is expected to start at about 300,000 ounces a year, peaking at about 450,000 in the fifth

[illegible]

U.S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indices

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Index	4933.84	4904.97	4887.94	4884.24	+11.54
Indus	2552.22	2542.32	2537.15	2537.15	+8.19
Trans	1555.22	1552.34	1549.15	1549.15	+0.19
Comp	1715.91	1715.91	1714.24	1714.24	+0.67
Indus	1544.41	1544.41	1543.34	1543.34	+1.04

Standard & Poor's

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Industries	677.29	684.21	684.21	+2.92
Utilities	103.33	103.33	103.33	+0.17
Trans	109.05	109.05	109.05	+0.17
Comp	109.05	109.05	109.05	+0.17
SP 500	374.91	374.91	374.91	+0.10
SP 100	563.71	563.71	563.71	+1.00

NYSE

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Comp	314.19	314.33	313.97	313.97	+0.18
Indus	234.31	234.43	233.91	233.91	+0.47
Trans	122.19	122.19	122.19	122.19	+0.17
Comp	267.41	267.41	267.41	267.41	+1.44

Nasdaq

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Comp	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54
Indus	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54
Trans	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54
Comp	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54
Indus	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54
Trans	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54

AMEX

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Comp	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54
Indus	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54
Trans	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54
Comp	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54
Indus	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54
Trans	103.33	103.33	103.33	103.33	+1.54

Dow Jones Bond

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
30 Bonds	103.91	—	—	—	+0.04
10 Utilities	103.91	—	—	—	+0.04
10 Industrials	103.91	—	—	—	+0.04

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Advanced Declined	1146	1364	—	—	—
Unchanged	1059	923	—	—	—
Declined	1059	923	—	—	—
Total Issues	1059	923	—	—	—
New Highs	1059	923	—	—	—
New Lows	38	38	—	—	—

AMEX

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Advanced Declined	280	277	—	—	—
Unchanged	280	277	—	—	—
Declined	280	277	—	—	—
Total Issues	280	277	—	—	—
New Highs	280	277	—	—	—
New Lows	280	277	—	—	—

Dividends

Company

Per Amt

Rat

Div

Pay

Company

Per Amt

Rat

Div

Pay

IRREGULAR

Capital Southwest

-

.40

11-15

11-30

REVERSE STOCK SPLIT

W

114

11-1

STOCK SPLIT

Divisor: Corp 2 for 1 split

Divisor: Inc 2 for 1 split

Divisor: Corp 1.54 additional shares for each share held

Divisor: Inc 1.54 additional shares for each share held

Divisor: Corp 1.54 additional shares for each share held

Divisor: Inc 1.54 additional shares for each share held

INCREASED

Aluminum Indium

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Nov. 9, 1995

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| | High | Low | Close | Chgs | Open | | High | Low | Close | Chgs | Open | |-------------------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|-------|---------|--|------|-----|-------|------|------| | BERNSTEIN FUND (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | per share - 1 unit equals \$100.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 3.328 | 3.328 | 3.327 | +18 | 36.597 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 1.5780 | 1.5720 | 1.574 | +18 | 348 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 1.5688 | | | +14 | 5 | | | | | | | | Apr '96 | 1.5688 | | | +14 | 5 | | | | | | | | May '96 | 1.5688 | | | +14 | 5 | | | | | | | | Jun '96 | 1.5688 | | | +14 | 5 | | | | | | | | Jul '96 | 1.5688 | | | +14 | 5 | | | | | | | | Aug '96 | 1.5688 | | | +14 | 5 | | | | | | | | S&P COM. F. INDEX (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 595.90 | 592.40 | 594.80 | +0.70 | 200,947 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 600.40 | 597.40 | 599.20 | +8.50 | 12,788 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 605.00 | 602.30 | 603.50 | +2.25 | 3,903 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 609.40 | 607.70 | 607.70 | -0.70 | 500 | | | | | | | | Est. sales | N.A. | West's sales | 77,496 | | | | | | | | | | West's open int | 718.07 | open | 577 | | | | | | | | | | CANADIAN DOLLAR | | | | | | | | | | | | | per unit - 1 unit equals \$1.0000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 70.02 | 70.02 | 70.05 | +19 | 33,515 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 70.92 | 70.95 | 70.95 | +19 | 1,728 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | Apr '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | May '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | Jun '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | Jul '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | Aug '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | S&P COM. F. INDEX (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 595.90 | 592.40 | 594.80 | +0.70 | 200,947 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 600.40 | 597.40 | 599.20 | +8.50 | 12,788 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 605.00 | 602.30 | 603.50 | +2.25 | 3,903 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 609.40 | 607.70 | 607.70 | -0.70 | 500 | | | | | | | | Est. sales | N.A. | West's sales | 77,496 | | | | | | | | | | West's open int | 718.07 | open | 577 | | | | | | | | | | EUROPEAN MARK (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | per share - 1 unit equals \$100.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 70.02 | 70.02 | 70.05 | +19 | 33,515 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 70.92 | 70.95 | 70.95 | +19 | 1,728 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | Apr '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | May '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | Jun '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | Jul '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | Aug '96 | 71.69 | 71.65 | 71.63 | +27 | 3,723 | | | | | | | | S&P COM. F. INDEX (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 595.90 | 592.40 | 594.80 | +0.70 | 200,947 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 600.40 | 597.40 | 599.20 | +8.50 | 12,788 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 605.00 | 602.30 | 603.50 | +2.25 | 3,903 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 609.40 | 607.70 | 607.70 | -0.70 | 500 | | | | | | | | Est. sales | N.A. | West's sales | 77,496 | | | | | | | | | | West's open int | 718.07 | open | 577 | | | | | | | | | | JAPANESE YEN (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | per yen - 1 unit equals \$100.0001 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 169.79 | 169.79 | 169.88 | +212 | 67,727 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 169.79 | 169.79 | 169.88 | +212 | 67,727 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 169.79 | 169.79 | 169.88 | +212 | 67,727 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 169.79 | 169.79 | 169.88 | +212 | 67,727 | | | | | | | | Apr '96 | 169.79 | 169.79 | 169.88 | +212 | 67,727 | | | | | | | | May '96 | 169.79 | 169.79 | 169.88 | +212 | 67,727 | | | | | | | | Jun '96 | 169.79 | 169.79 | 169.88 | +212 | 67,727 | | | | | | | | Jul '96 | 169.79 | 169.79 | 169.88 | +212 | 67,727 | | | | | | | | Aug '96 | 169.79 | 169.79 | 169.88 | +212 | 67,727 | | | | | | | | S&P COM. F. INDEX (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 595.90 | 592.40 | 594.80 | +0.70 | 200,947 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 600.40 | 597.40 | 599.20 | +8.50 | 12,788 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 605.00 | 602.30 | 603.50 | +2.25 | 3,903 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 609.40 | 607.70 | 607.70 | -0.70 | 500 | | | | | | | | Est. sales | N.A. | West's sales | 77,496 | | | | | | | | | | West's open int | 718.07 | open | 577 | | | | | | | | | | SWISS FRANC (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | per franc - 1 unit equals \$1.0001 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 1.855 | 1.855 | 1.857 | +16 | 76,335 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 1.855 | 1.855 | 1.857 | +16 | 76,335 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 1.855 | 1.855 | 1.857 | +16 | 76,335 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 1.855 | 1.855 | 1.857 | +16 | 76,335 | | | | | | | | Apr '96 | 1.855 | 1.855 | 1.857 | +16 | 76,335 | | | | | | | | May '96 | 1.855 | 1.855 | 1.857 | +16 | 76,335 | | | | | | | | Jun '96 | 1.855 | 1.855 | 1.857 | +16 | 76,335 | | | | | | | | Jul '96 | 1.855 | 1.855 | 1.857 | +16 | 76,335 | | | | | | | | Aug '96 | 1.855 | 1.855 | 1.857 | +16 | 76,335 | | | | | | | | S&P COM. 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INDEX (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 595.90 | 592.40 | 594.80 | +0.70 | 200,947 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 600.40 | 597.40 | 599.20 | +8.50 | 12,788 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 605.00 | 602.30 | 603.50 | +2.25 | 3,903 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 609.40 | 607.70 | 607.70 | -0.70 | 500 | | | | | | | | Est. sales | N.A. | West's sales | 77,496 | | | | | | | | | | West's open int | 718.07 | open | 577 | | | | | | | | | | INDUSTRIALS | | | | | | | | | | | | | per share - 1 share equals \$1.0000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.78 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Apr '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | May '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Jun '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Jul '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Aug '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | S&P COM. F. INDEX (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 595.90 | 592.40 | 594.80 | +0.70 | 200,947 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 600.40 | 597.40 | 599.20 | +8.50 | 12,788 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 605.00 | 602.30 | 603.50 | +2.25 | 3,903 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 609.40 | 607.70 | 607.70 | -0.70 | 500 | | | | | | | | Est. sales | N.A. | West's sales | 77,496 | | | | | | | | | | West's open int | 718.07 | open | 577 | | | | | | | | | | INDUSTRIALS | | | | | | | | | | | | | per share - 1 share equals \$1.0000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.78 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Apr '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | May '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Jun '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Jul '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Aug '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | S&P COM. F. INDEX (CAMER) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 595.90 | 592.40 | 594.80 | +0.70 | 200,947 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 600.40 | 597.40 | 599.20 | +8.50 | 12,788 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 605.00 | 602.30 | 603.50 | +2.25 | 3,903 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 609.40 | 607.70 | 607.70 | -0.70 | 500 | | | | | | | | Est. sales | N.A. | West's sales | 77,496 | | | | | | | | | | West's open int | 718.07 | open | 577 | | | | | | | | | | INDUSTRIALS | | | | | | | | | | | | | per share - 1 share equals \$1.0000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dec '95 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.78 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Jan '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Feb '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Mar '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Apr '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | May '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Jun '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Jul '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | Aug '96 | 84.05 | 82.31 | 82.40 | -8.73 | 18,657 | | | | | | | | S&P COM. 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Mitsubishi Estate Says Profit Hit A 19-Year Low

TOKYO — Mitsubishi Estate Co., one of Japan's oldest and largest real estate companies, said Thursday its first-half profit tumbled to its lowest level in 19 years amid continued sluggishness in the nation's property market.

Mitsubishi Estate, perhaps best known overseas for its ill-fated investment in New York's Rockefeller Center, said current, or pretax, profit fell to 6.77 billion yen (\$66 million) in the six months ended Sept. 30 from 29.64 billion yen a year earlier.

It was the fifth year of falling profit for Mitsubishi Estate and the lowest half-year profit since 1976. Revenue fell to 176.67 billion yen from 229.49 billion yen a year earlier.

"Until the economy turns around, commercial property prices won't recover," said Muneo Tanaka, executive vice president.

Bank Data From Japan Draw Fire

TOKYO — Differences between the reporting practices of Japanese banks and those of other countries are in large part responsible for distrust of Japan's financial sector, Brian Quinn, executive director of the Bank of England, said Thursday.

"We saw that Japan's accounting and reporting practices were different from those of other countries, and little has been done to close the gap," he said.

"This is responsible, in large part, for distrust of the Japanese financial sector and for the 'Japan premium,'" Mr. Quinn said. It should now be clear that financial institutions active in international markets must be judged according to international standards.

Vacancy rates at Mitsubishi Estate's Japanese office buildings have started to recover but remain high. The company's office properties were 12.54 percent vacant in the half year, compared with 13.3 percent a year earlier.

Revenue at the company's property sales division fell to 21.3 billion yen from 82.7 billion yen, while sales at the property and building rental division dropped to 123.6 billion yen from 127.8 billion yen.

The company said it had cut operating expenses to 147.8 billion yen from 175.4 billion yen, not enough to offset the large drop in revenue.

Mitsubishi Estate said it would continue to suffer from the prolonged deterioration of the property market, with a high level of debt also undermining profitability.

"We do not expect any significant recovery in the property market for the next two or three years, as the property market usually lags actual economic activity," Mr. Tanaka said.

Mitsubishi Estate agreed in October to sell its interest in two Tokyo office towers — the Marubeni Building and the Aoyama Building.

The sale of the Marubeni Building will result in a profit of about 65.6 billion yen, but Mitsubishi Estate will not book that profit until the year ending in March 1997, the company said.

Mitsubishi Estate paid \$1.4 billion for an 80 percent stake in the landmark Rockefeller Center complex in Manhattan at the end of the 1980s.

The investment was made just before real estate prices began tumbling in the United States. The partnership controlled by Mitsubishi failed to meet its mortgage payments as rents fell. It placed the famous New York property under bankruptcy-law protection in May after losing about \$600 million.

The loss on that investment did not affect the company's latest half-year earnings, but it will show up on its full-year consolidated statement.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Exclusive New Clubs Bring the 'Power Lunch' to Beijing

BEIJING — Interested in meeting the chiefs of China's major banks and trading companies as well as many of Beijing's top foreign business people?

Then find \$10,000 and try to get an invitation to join the Capital Club, one of several exclusive venues that have opened in Beijing in the past two years. Like its competitors, the Capital presents itself as the premier private club in China.

The new clubs offer a place for recreation and business meetings as well as an upscale social milieu in which to meet leading movers and shakers — both Chinese and foreign — in a country where personal contacts often count for more than laws or contracts.

As one Southeast Asian businessman put it: "There are two things to say about China. One is that it is hard to do business here. The other is that you can do anything."

The Capital Club has 800 members, about 30 percent of whom are Chinese.

Owned by China International Trust & Investment Corp., or CITIC, the club is on the 30th floor of Capital Mansions, one of Beijing's largest skyscrapers. It offers Chinese and Western cuisine, a bar, a library, meeting rooms and an athletic club.

"Even three to four years ago, conditions were not ripe for such a club," said Capital's membership director, Lillian Zhao. "We spent a year of market research before deciding to set it up."

The research found that potential members preferred the idea of a club of their own where they could dine and rub shoulders with their peers to going to a public facility such as a hotel bar or restaurant.

The club opened Oct. 14, 1994. Its chairman is Wang Jun, chairman of CITIC, China's biggest multinational financial firm. He is the son of the late Wang Zhen, a former vice president of China.

The founding board of governors includes the chair-

man of the Bank of China, a son-in-law of China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping and the mayor of Shanghai.

Ding Yucheng, a Beijing representative for the U.S. securities firm Bear Stearns & Co. joined the club last year because, he said, it offered the best price of any such clubs, was close to his office and offered athletic facilities and a good place for business meetings.

"Since I joined as a private member, I can transfer my membership," he said.

But he says he only goes about twice a month because he finds the club's activities and seminars geared mainly to expatriate members and because it does not encourage members to bring guests.

"We local people have more friends and more choice of entertainment than do expatriates in Beijing," he said. "There is a big gap in the cultural background between us and foreigners."

The Capital Club does not, however, have the market for exclusive clubs all to itself. The Chang An club, a short distance from Tiananmen square in the heart of Beijing, plans an official opening in early 1996 and is charging \$9,000 for corporate members and \$7,000 for individual members.

"We are aiming at a 70-30 Chinese-foreign proportion and targeting joint ventures and high-profile local companies," said the club's general manager, Roger Chapman. Like the Capital Club, membership will be by invitation only.

CCA International, which manages Chang An, also plans golf and country clubs in Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Shanghai and another city club in Dalian.

While the line between officials and business people is increasingly blurred in China, clubs target the latter as members, especially since a nationwide campaign against corruption has made government officials wary of accepting favors.

Canada's Beef: Salmon Ottawa Sees Protectionism by Canberra

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

GUNPOWDER, Australia — Tim Fountain is proud of the salmon he farms in large pens that float in pristine seawater just off the rocky shoreline of Tasmania.

Many of the fish are exported by air to Japan, where they sell for a premium of as much as 20 percent over other imported fresh salmon because they are known to be free of disease, chemicals and additives.

But Mr. Fountain and other salmon farmers in Australia are worried that a test case being brought by Canada to the World Trade Organization in Geneva on Nov. 23 may wipe out this environmental competitive advantage.

They are also concerned that imported disease could devastate an industry that grew from nothing a decade ago to 100 million Australian dollars (\$75.1 million) in the year to June, when Australian salmon production reached 6,000 tons.

The total value of Australian salmon exports, mainly to Japan and other parts of East Asia, was about 40 million dollars.

In the first such challenge before the WTO, Canada is arguing that an Australian ban on fresh salmon imports violates an international agreement on sanitary measures that was part of the global trade accord reached under the Uruguay Round in 1994.

The Australian ban was first imposed in 1975. It is based on a quarantine regulation intended to prevent the entry of imported diseases into fish stock in Australia.

Canada, a major salmon exporter along with Norway, Chile, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, New Zealand and Australia, insists that the ban is a disguised form of protectionism.

"The Australian salmon import prohibition has been a long-standing problem for us and a real irritant in the bilateral relationship," said

John F. Donaghy, a counselor at the Canadian High Commission in Canberra.

"It has long been the contention of our scientists that the ban is not justified on scientific grounds."

The issue is expected to be raised by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien of Canada when he meets his Australian counterpart, Paul Keating, in Canberra on Wednesday.

In a recent draft report, the Australian government's quarantine-inspection service concluded that the risk of disease from any Canadian salmon imports would be negligible.

An interagency government body is now studying the question and is due to report by the end of year.

If Australia and Canada cannot agree in the consultations before the WTO that will start this month, the matter is likely to be decided by arbitration, probably in 1996.

Mr. Fountain, technical officer for Aquatex Tasmania Australia Pty., one of the country's largest salmon farmers, said the Australian salmon industry had been successful because it produced top-quality fish that are free of disease and chemicals.

In documents recently filed with the government in Canberra, the Tasmanian Salmonid Growers Association Ltd. said the quarantine service's findings on the low risk posed by imported salmon were seriously flawed.

It said there was a real risk of any of 23 diseases that exist in imported salmon spreading to the local industry.

"This is not a protection or a trade issue," said Tony Smithies, the association's executive officer. "It's a disease issue."

He said Australia allowed imports of salmon products that had been heat-treated by canning or smoking, because that reduced the risk of disease. Such imports were valued at more than 52 million dollars in the last fiscal year, and nearly half of them came from Canada.

Unemployment Rises in Australia

Bloomberg Business News

SYDNEY — The jobless rate rose to a seven-month high and unemployment unexpectedly fell for a second consecutive month in October, the Bureau of Statistics said Thursday, supporting the belief that economic growth is slowing.

Employment fell last month by 33,700, to 8.22 million. The unemployment rate rose to 8.7

percent from 8.5 percent in September.

Bonds rallied on speculation that the slowdown might open the way for a reduction in interest rates soon, traders and analysts said.

John Short, chief economist at HSBC Australia, said he expected rates would be cut by Christmas. The jobs report "significantly increases the probability of a domestic interest rate cut of 50 basis points," he said.

China, Missing the 'Soft Landing,' Will Step Up Inflation Battle in '96

Bloomberg Business News

BEIJING — Zhu Rongji, China's deputy prime minister and top economic policymaker, said Thursday that China would strengthen its anti-inflation campaign next year, according to published reports in Hong Kong.

"China's economy has yet to successfully achieve a soft landing," Mr. Zhu said, using the economic term for low inflation with slower, but not recessionary, growth. "Next year the priority of economic work is still to strengthen macroeconomic controls." Prices in China were still rising too fast, Mr. Zhu added.

His remarks were published in the Chinese-language newspaper Wen Wei Po.

China's anti-inflation campaign, begun in 1993, has been marked by tight controls on lending and curbs on government spending. Those forces

pushed economic growth for the first nine months of 1995 below 10 percent for the first time since 1991, to 9.8 percent.

Mr. Zhu said the government would restrict investment in infrastructure projects in 1996 and would limit consumer-goods purchases by state organizations.

The architect of China's anti-inflation program in 1993, Mr. Zhu resigned as the governor of China's central bank in June to concentrate on economic policymaking.

Some analysts, however, called his statements too cautious. "This is the type of comment you'd expect from a former governor of the central bank," said Gavin Graham, chief investment officer of Citibank Global Asset Management.

"There has been a soft landing, and it's likely there will be some credit relaxation next year," The Hang Seng China En-

Delay Hits Nintendo Stock Price

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Shares in Nintendo Co. fell 4.6 percent Thursday on reports the company would not introduce its next-generation video-game player until early 1996, missing the lucrative Christmas season.

The daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun said the company would not release its Ultra 64 game player until the spring, when more software would be available for the machine.

Stock in Nintendo dropped 390 yen, to 8,000 (\$77.52). A company spokesman declined to comment on the report.

Missing the year-end sales season could be a serious blow to Nintendo as it deals with challenges from its main competitors, Sega Enterprises Ltd. and Sony Corp.

Sega and Sony introduced game machines more than a year ago that offered greater speed and color than Nintendo's current machines.

Separately, spokesmen for Sony and Victor Co. of Japan said their companies were in talks with Sega, Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp. and Yamaha Corp. on developing a computer network using video-game terminals.

The spokesmen, who would not provide details of the talks, were responding to a report in the Nihon Keizai Shimbun that said the network would combine security features available in conventional PC networks with the openness of the Internet.

In another development that could hurt makers of game players, NEC Corp. and Namco Corp. are to team up to market a powerful semiconductor package they say will make games as fast and vivid on PCs as they are on dedicated players.

The two companies said the chip bundle would be sold to PC makers starting in May.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Asia

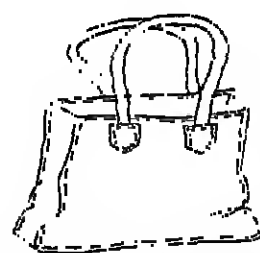
Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	9,487.83	9,562.45	-0.68
Singapore	Straits Times	2,088.91	2,101.48	-0.55
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,131.70	2,110.70	+0.99
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	17,821.04	17,863.29	-0.24
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	908.84	913.43	-1.04
Bangkok	SET	1,211.78	1,222.75	-0.90
Seoul	Composite Index	970.91	980.84	-1.01
Taipei	Stock Market Index	4,717.48	4,773.70	-1.18
Manila	PSE	2,461.75	2,484.94	-0.93
Jakarta	Composite Index	481.41	487.46	-1.24
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,192.58	2,173.05	+0.90
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,316.00	3,364.71	-1.45

Source: Telekurs

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. will cut its work force by as much as 10 percent amid rising costs and increased competition. The company has about 20,000 workers.
 - Taisho Pharmaceutical Co.'s sales of energy drinks during a hot summer helped half-year pretax profit rise 13 percent, to 33.81 billion yen (\$327.6 million); sales increased 5 percent, to 115.85 billion yen.
 - Texas Instruments (Philippines) Inc. is to spend as much as \$120 million over the next two years for expansion.
 - Matsushita Electric Works Ltd. is considering building a \$60 million television factory in Gdansk, Poland, the city's president said, adding that the plant would employ about 100 people.
 - Overseas Chinese Bank is to be examined by Taipei regulators after allegations of illegal lending and unusual changes implemented by its new chairman.
 - Royal Dutch/Shell Group signed an agreement with China National Offshore Oil Corp. that gives Shell exclusive rights to negotiate oil contracts in an area of the South China Sea.
 - Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. aims to save as much as 200 million Hong Kong dollars (\$25.9 million) a year by setting up a company to recruit crew members abroad for its freight flights.
 - Bank of Western Australia's net profit for the year ended Sept. 30 rose 20 percent, to 99.2 million Australian dollars (\$74.5 million); the state-owned bank is to be taken over by Bank of Scotland Nov. 30.
- (AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters)



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Class 5-5			Class 5-6	9.64				
Class 5-7			Class 5-8	9.93				
Class 5-9			Class 5-10	10.22				
Class 5-11			Class 5-12	10.51				
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Class 5-107			Class 5-108	24.43				
Class 5-109			Class 5-110	24.72				

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B\$ - Belgian Francs; C\$ - Canadian Dollars; Dfl.
- Dutch Guilders; £ - English Pounds; F - French
Francs; FF - French Marks; G - Deutsch
Marken; H - Italian Lire; J.P. - Luxembourg Francs;
K - Swiss Francs; S\$ - Singapore Dollars;
Y - Yen.**

A - added or Other Prices; N.A. - Not Available; N.C.
- Not Considered; N.S. - None; R - suspended; SS
- Special Service; T - Total; T.B. - Tax; U - Other
Prices Paid; V.S. - visible; W - Weekly; X - Other
than weekly; Y - monthly

**AS - American Shillings; B\$ - Belgian Francs;
C\$ - Canadian Dollars; Dfl. - Dutch Guilders;
£ - English Pounds; F - French Francs; FF -
French Marks; G - Deutsch Marken; H - Italian
Lire; J.P. - Luxembourg Francs; K - Swiss Francs;
S\$ - Singapore Dollars; Y - Yen;**

The marginal symbols indicate frequency of
quotations supplied: (d) - daily; (w) - weekly; (bi)-
bi-weekly; (m) - monthly; (q) - quarterly; (r) - twice
weekly; (y) - yearly.

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SPORTS

With the NHL's 2 Top Scorers, Penguins Keep Foes Hopping

The Associated Press

The problem with playing the Pittsburgh Penguins is that once you get past the National Hockey League's top scorer, you may have to deal again with the NHL's top scorer.

The Ottawa Senators held Mario Lemieux—who started, and finished, the night as the NHL's top scorer—goalless for 56 minutes Wednesday night. While the Senators were doing that, Jar-

champions continued to struggle. They have one victory in their last seven games.

Sabres 7, Sharks 2: Donald Audette scored three goals and Dominik Hasek had 30 saves as Buffalo defeated visiting San Jose. Audette's second career hat-trick propelled the Sabres to their highest goal total of the year. Buffalo also had goals from Pat LaFontaine, Garry Galley, Randy Burridge and Brent Hughes.

Rangers 5, Lightning 4: In New York, Alexei Kovalev scored the game-winner with seven minutes remaining as the Rangers erased a three-goal deficit to defeat Tampa Bay.

Two nights after scoring his 500th career goal, Mark Messier beat rookie Derek Wilkins between the pads to tie the game 4-4 with 8:35 left in the third period. Wilkins was making his NHL debut.

Messier then set up Kovalev for the game-winner with a wraparound pass with 6:48 remaining.

Mighty Ducks 3, Canadiens 2: In Montreal, Paul Kariya scored 2:35 into overtime to lift Anaheim to a comeback victory over the Canadiens.

A tentative Montreal defense allowed Kariya to walk in from the blue line and beat Patrick Roy with a wrist shot for his 12th goal of the season.

Stars 3, Kings 3: In Dallas, Kevin Hatcher scored the tying goal for 9:50 to play in regulation, and the Stars rallied from a two-goal deficit to tie Los Angeles.

Dimitri Khristich scored consecutive goals in a span of 3:10 of the first period, and Byron Dabo, the goaltender, stopped 21 of 22 shots during a second-period barrage to put the Kings in position for the victory. But Hatcher capped the comeback with a blast into the upper right corner of the net, his fifth goal of the season.

NHL ROUNDOUP

mir Jagr, who also plays for the Penguins, took over the scoring lead. Jagr scored two goals, as well as two assists, in a 7-1 Pittsburgh victory.

When Lemieux finally scored, his 13th goal tied him for the lead with Jagr.

"They put their best defensive players on Mario, and that's helping me a lot," Jagr said.

Scoring one goal can be considered an off night for Lemieux, who leads the NHL in total points too, with 32 points in just 10 games.

The Penguins scored four goals on five shots in a seven-minute span late in the first period. Ron Francis had a goal and three assists for Pittsburgh, which improved its lead in the Northeast Division to 7-2-3.

"They just scored seven on Philadelphia, 10 on Tampa Bay, so we're not the only team they're going to beat 7-1," Ottawa's coach, Rick Bowens, said. "They've got some of the best one-on-one players in the world, so you can be all over them and they still make plays."

Flames 2, Devils 1: At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Michael Nylander scored an unassisted goal at 12:41 of the third period to lift Calgary over New Jersey.

The victory snapped the Flames' three-game winless streak while the defending Stanley Cup



Sabres' Doug Bodger trying the sweep the puck from the Sharks center, Jeff Friesen (39), in a game won by Buffalo.

At Least NBC Likes Cleveland

The Associated Press

First, the Raiders go to Oakland, and now the Browns want to go to Baltimore. Pretty soon, the Oilers could be in Nashville. If this is a trend, NBC, the American television channel, would like to buck it.

"It would be very troubling if we found ourselves, on a regular basis, leaving top 15 markets to go to top 20 or top 30 markets," said the NBC Sports president, Dick Ebersol, whose network carries American Football Conference games.

If the Cleveland-to-Baltimore is completed, NBC will be leaving the nation's 13th largest TV market to go to the 23rd largest. And a possible Houston transfer to Nashville would mean going from No. 11 to No. 33.

"They have good music in Nashville, but I don't think Loretta Lynn will be returning kickoffs," Ebersol said.

After the first nine weeks of the season, NBC's football ratings in Cleveland have averaged 22.2, far above the national average of 10.2.

"Cleveland has been, year in and year out, the No. 1 or No. 2 market for us," in terms of fan support, Ebersol said.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
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Miami	2	0	1.000	—
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Orlando	2	0	.500	—
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New York	2	0	.667	1
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Washington	2	0	.500	1
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Charlotte	2	0	.333	2
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New Jersey	1	2	.333	3
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Philadelphia	1	2	.333	3
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Chicago	0	3	.000	—
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Indiana	0	3	.000	—
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Atlanta	2	2	.500	1
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Charlotte	2	2	.500	1
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Boston	2	2	.500	1
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HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pct	GB
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Florida	11	4	0	.727	—
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N.Y. Rangers	9	5	1	.643	2
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Philadelphia	8	4	3	.654	3
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Washington	9	5	0	.643	2
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New Jersey	7	7	1	.500	4
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Tampa Bay	7	7	1	.500	4
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N.Y. Islanders	7	7	1	.500	4
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Pittsburgh	7	7	1	.500	4
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Hartford	6	7	3	.462	5
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Ottawa	6	7	3	.462	5
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Buffalo	5	8	2	.400	6
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San Jose	5	8	2	.400	6
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Los Angeles	5	8	2	.400	6
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San Jose	5	8	2	.400	6
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Los Angeles	5	8	2	.400	6
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San Jose	5	8	2	.400	6
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Los Angeles	5	8	2	.400	6
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San Jose	5	8	2	.40
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WORLD ROUNDUP



Donizetti prepares to shoot the game-winning goal for Brazil.

Brazil Beats Old Rival

SOCCER The World Cup champion, Brazil, led by midfielders Juninho and Amaral, beat Argentina, 1-0, in an exhibition game Wednesday night in which there were 62 fouls and two red cards. In a game played in the packed River Plate Stadium, Donizetti, who was making his debut, scored in the 21st minute. Arilson of Brazil and Cristian Gonzalez of Argentina, both substitutes, were sent off.

PARIS — French coach Aimé Jacquet did not pick either of his two English-based stars, Eric Cantona and David Ginola, for next week's European championship qualifier against Israel. Jacquet said of Cantona: "The team must be spared from surprises just now. This is a match we have to win." (Reuters)

Super Bowl Prices Up

FOOTBALL The top ticket price for the Super Bowl, to be played in Tempe, Arizona, on Jan. 28, has been raised \$50 to \$350. The increase will apply to 23,000 of the more than 70,000 seats at Sun Devil Stadium. Another 10,700 seats will cost \$250 each. The remaining 37,500 will be \$200. For the last two Super Bowls, there have been two prices, \$300 and \$200. (AP)

Bruno Must Fight Tyson

BOXING The World Boxing Council, meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, ruled on Thursday that the heavyweight champion Frank Bruno should make his first title defense against Mike Tyson. (Reuters)

Cordova Wins Award

BASEBALL Marty Cordova, the Minnesota Twins outfielder who had 24 homers and 84 RBIs, was voted American League Rookie of the Year, edging California's Garret Anderson in the closest race in 16 years. Cordova and Anderson each received 13 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers Association of America. Cordova had 13 second-place votes and Anderson 10. (AP)

Pakistan Drops Chances

CRICKET Pakistan made a frustrating start to the first Test against Australia in Brisbane. The tourists dropped five catches as Australia reached 262 runs for four wickets. Salim Malik, whom the Australians did not want on the tour because they said he tried to bribe some of their players, split the webbing at the base of his left thumb catching a hard-hit shot from the Australian captain, Mark Taylor, and had to leave the field. (Reuters)

Lomu the Young Colossus Strikes Fear Into French

France plays the touring New Zealanders in Toulouse on Saturday in the first of two tests to determine the state of the world rugby hierarchy after the last World Cup matches in South Africa.

New Zealand finished second and France third in the tournament last June after both being narrowly beaten by the home team and, outside of South Africa, were regarded by many as the best two teams on view. South Africa, meanwhile, plays Italy in Rome on Sunday and England at Twickenham, West London, on Nov. 18.

The All Blacks, anxious to prove that despite their 15-12 overtime loss to the Springboks in the World Cup final, remain rugby's best, also have a score to settle with the French.

The French team surprised themselves by going to New Zealand last year and winning both tests.

New Zealand has conserved the nucleus of its World Cup team. But two of the three young stars for the All Blacks who emerged in South Africa, the flyhalf Andrew Mehrtens and flank forward Josh Kronfeld, are missing because of injury. Meanwhile, the French are rebuilding under a new coach, Jean-Claude Skrela.

The third, and most imposing, of the new

All Blacks stars is the wing Jonah Lomu, the colossus. He was the sensation of the World Cup, and he is the player the French fear, with his strength and speed giving him the ability to power down the left flank regardless of how many tacklers try to stop him.

Lomu has not been outstanding so far on tour, but he may be biding his time for the big occasions that present themselves in Toulouse and next week in Paris at the Parc des Princes.

If the French are wary of Lomu, the All Blacks have their eyes on the right wing Emile Ntamack, a speed ace who has a habit of scoring tries for his country.

The New Zealand fullback Jeff Wilson said: "They're an impressive team. For me the key man is Ntamack. He can suddenly appear anywhere at any time. He's completely unpredictable."

France has made a few changes. Their new men include the centers Richard Dourthe and Thomas Castaignède, the scrum-half Philippe Carbonneau and the lock Fabien Pelous.

Skrela's team looked impressive in winning the Latin Cup in Argentina last month, scoring 18 tries in their three matches against the hosts, Romania and Italy.



Jonah Lomu, the New Zealand winger, prepares for Saturday's test against France at a training session in Blagnac.

Ice Hockey Is On a Roll — Across the World's Pavements
Roller Skates Are Carrying the Imperialist Hopes of the World's Fastest Team Sport

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — The old-timers who grew up with Gordie Howe and Bobby Orr used to admit that ice hockey could never skate with soccer or basketball, that it could never become a global sport. The problem was the ice. Ice hockey has always been the world's fastest team game — no problems there — but how could the sport grow where the ponds don't freeze?

They used to figure that somebody, someday, would invent an artificial rink, a plastic kind of ice. They never seemed to think about reinventing the skates.

"The new artificial surface is blacktop," Steve Solomon, senior vice president and CEO of the National Hockey League, said from New York. "It's tar. Pavement. The game used to be limited to cold-weather climates, but, with the growth of in-line skating, we're seeing people at the grass roots with the opportunity to play the game on sidewalks or pavement. We think it's going to catapult the sport in popularity."

Ever since it hired Gary Bettman as commissioner in January 1993 from the National Basketball Association, where he learned about American sporting imperialism under David Stern, the NHL has been willing to try anything to make ice hockey a larger, more worldly game.

The NHL has become an international league, more than 20 percent of its players, come from Europe.

Next summer it will hold its first World Cup, an invitational tournament of six or eight national teams.

In early 1998, the NHL will pause to allow its stars to compete in the Winter Olympics at Nagano, Japan. If the 1992 Olympics affirmed the global celebrity of the greatest American basketball players, the next Olympic hockey tournament should create a better sense for the unique speed of that game. It should also be much more competitive than was the basketball in Barcelona. The Russians, with 46 current NHL players, the Swedes (27), the Czechs (23) and the Finns, with 12, will join Canada (372) and the U.S. (107) as contenders for a medal.

None of this will hold the public's interest in between Olympics unless more children everywhere learn to play the game. The basketball people have prospered by hosting three-on-three "street" tournaments around the world. The hockey people are thinking about inflatable rinks.

"I think it's a growth business for us," Solomon said. "It's a business we will be trying to get into. It's roughly three-quarters the size of a ice hockey rink. The sides are very strong, and they can take a lot of banging-into. You get the real feeling that you're stepping into a rink."

The NHL's interest in street hockey is new. Its unofficial world partner, the International Ice Hockey Federation, is seeking to become the sanctioning body for "in-line" hockey, according to Solomon. There

are plans for a world championship in San Jose, California, next year.

"There are a half-million kids playing sanctioned roller hockey throughout the U.S.," Solomon said. "I expect to see more and more professional leagues established, and someday you might see it as an Olympic sport. I don't think the sport will replace the game on the ice, but it's a great recreational substitute and a good game to watch."

Those involved in the European equivalent will ooze doubt by thinking, "typical Americans." Their International Skater Hockey Federation, based in England, predates the newfound interest in "in-line skating" or "rollerblading." The more sophisticated Europeans tend to play on the old-fashioned, four-wheeled roller skates — "quads," as they're known.

"The influence in America seems to be that everybody should be skating 'in-line,'" said Stella Van der Geyten, the federation president. "But the European attitude is that nobody will be ever dictate to us what we put on our feet."

Another controversy comes from the American preference for the puck. Europeans find that a hard ball with minimal bounce is safer. But such are the adult arguments. The teenagers in their leg and elbow pads, their sticks, helmets and wheeled feet — look like combatants in a video game, or a meek Mad Max movie.

"You hear from people on both sides," said Prosper Edutie, a 32-year-old Londoner who is considered to be

one of the sport's founding fathers. "The disadvantage with the in-line skates is that you can't accelerate as fast, but the maneuvers are much easier to do. But for the stop-start, stop-start, you're better off on the quads."

Edutie was 16 when he and a few school friends crushed a soda can down as flat as a puck and began hitting it around with hockey sticks on the pavement at South Bank in London. They formed the London Street Warriors, a new-age heir to the Montreal Canadiens in their dominance of original British street hockey.

The European game recently changed its name to "skater hockey." The idea of street hockey was scaring potential sponsors. Up to 12,000 players are registered with federations in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Britain and Barbados, but Van der Geyten believes 10 times as many kids are playing.

"It tends to spring up on street corners or vacant lots," she said; the way stickball used to in America. "People from Europe on holidays would see us playing and they'd say, 'We do something like this in our country.'" Edutie said. "I'm a black guy myself, and I found that ice hockey was always a closed door as far as black kids were concerned. When we first started the club in 1982, it was mostly black guys playing."

But now the shift has actually gone towards white guys. The majority of the kids playing on the 15 teams in London are white. There's no segregation, no boundaries. I think the reason it's so open now is because it was started by the blacks."

Heat Victory Over Rockets Warms Riley's Heart

The Associated Press

Pat Riley has the Miami Heat playing his way, and it looks like the right way.

With an 89-82 victory over the two-time NBA champion Houston Rockets, Miami has won its first two games, its best start in the franchise's eight-year history.

"Hey, 2-0," Riley said Wednesday night. "Let's quit right now and go straight to the playoffs."

The Sacramento Kings would vote for that, too. The team that has missed the playoffs for nine straight seasons is 4-0 for the first time in 35 years after a 109-90 victory over Toronto.

With its victory, the Heat broke an 11-

game losing streak against the Rockets dating back to November 1989.

"What happened in the past is in the past," said Keith Askins, who has been with the Heat since 1990. "We have great weather down here, but it's not going to be a vacation for teams when they come down here."

The Rockets, who lost for the first time, scored six consecutive points to tie the game at 82, but failed to score in the final two minutes.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 22 points for Houston, outplaying the Heat's center, Alonzo Mourning, who missed 10 of 13 shots and scored 13 points.

Kings 109, Raptors 90: Mitch Richmond scored 32 points to help get Sacramento off to its best start since 1960, when the club was called the Cincinnati Royals and Oscar Robertson was just a rookie.

Richmond hit eight of nine shots in the first half and cooled only slightly in the second half.

Bullets 110, Hornets 96: Gheorghe Muresan scored 13 of his career-high 31 points in the fourth quarter, and Washington overcame 38 points by Glen Rice.

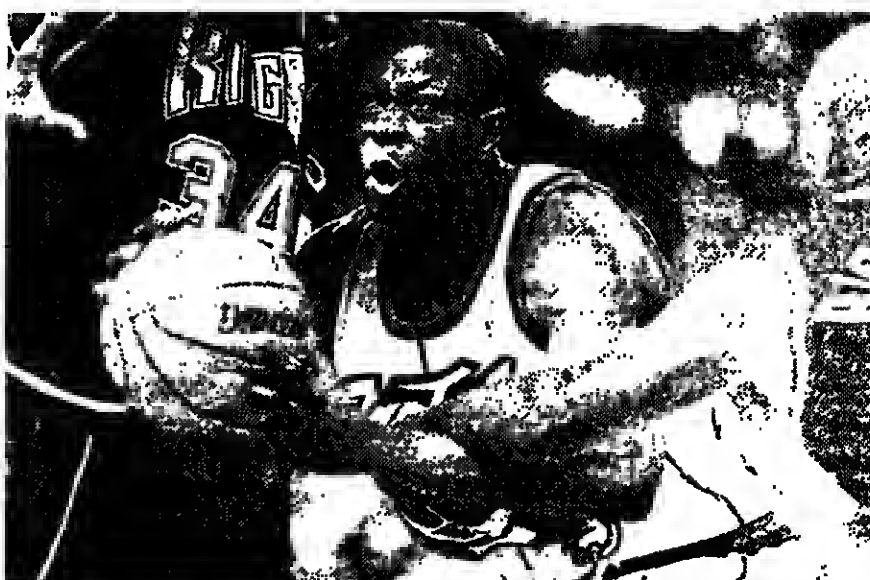
Celtics 113, Suns 109: Dino Radja and Dee Brown scored 21 points each as Boston got its first victory of the season by outturning the visiting Phoenix Suns.

The Celtics outscored Phoenix 20-2 on fast breaks. Their last one, started by Rick Fox's rebound and long pass and capped by Radja's dunk with 1:08 left, gave them a 109-103 lead.

Pistons 107, Trail Blazers 100: Joe Dumars, playing on a bad hamstring, scored 41 points in 42 minutes to lead Detroit to an overtime victory over visiting Portland.

Grant Hill added 19 points for Detroit, which won its first game under its new coach, Doug Collins. Robinson had 30 and Rod Strickland 25 for Portland.

Spurs 111, Grizzlies 82: David Robinson put the game away for the host Spurs by scoring 20 points in the third quarter.



Ed Pinckney of the Raptors battling to get off a shot against Sacramento.

Magic 130, Nets 122: Anfernee Hardaway scored a career-high 42 points and Nick Anderson atoned for a poor shooting night with a pair of clutch three-pointers in the third overtime as Orlando beat visiting New Jersey.

Jazz 108, Lakers 96: Utah held visiting Los Angeles without a field goal in the final 4:47, and Karl Malone had 33 points and 12 rebounds.

SuperSonics 122, Nuggets 117: Detlef Schrempf scored 35 points as visiting Seattle beat Denver. Denver, off to its worst start since 1990-91, lost for the fourth time this year despite 28 points from Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf.

Hawks 100, Clippers 92: Steve Smith paced Atlanta's scoring attack with 18 points, and the Hawks sank 16 of 19 free throws in the fourth quarter for the victory.

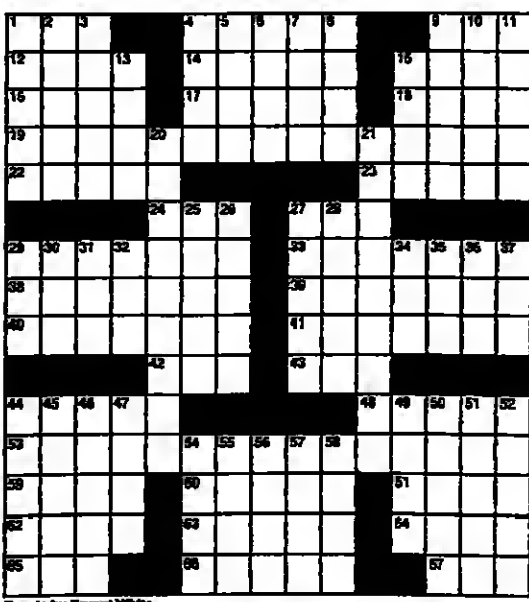
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Ingemar Johansson wins
- 4 Inhabitant's place
- 9 Industrialist's dog.
- 12 Insurance figure
- 14 Ichthyologist's specimen
- 15 "It's Still Rock and Roll to Me" singer Billy
- 16 Indiana of the West

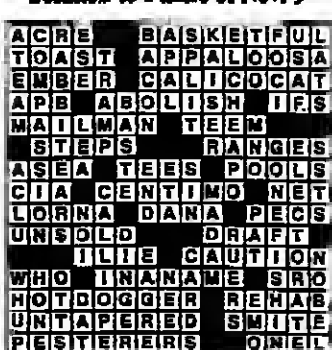
DOWN

- 1 Idolized drummer
- 2 "In Old Arizona," e.g.
- 3 Isaac the violinist
- 4 Id —
- 5 Iberian "mouth"
- 6 Intense exam
- 17 Immortal start for Caesar
- 18 Important ship of myth
- 19 It's in Lepus
- 20 Italian dish
- 24 Initials for a waitress
- 27 Ignorant reply
- 28 Individual who fishes
- 33 Interweave
- 38 "I Will" (disco hit)
- 39 Intimate of Aeneas
- 40 Innermost orbital point
- 41 Influences in astrology
- 42 It precedes poetica
- 43 Irene's seasoning
- 44 Inventory, e.g.
- 45 Indonesian is similar to it
- 53 I
- 58 Infant's place
- 60 Innocent hiss?
- 61 Item for heating liquids
- 62 Islets
- 63 Italian artist
- 64 Institutes legal action
- 65 It follows dom
- 66 In amongst
- 67 Intemperate fit
- 7 Ideal, as greenhouse soil
- 8 Inspector
- 9 Idiot
- 10 Initiated
- 11 Isolated
- 12 In (actually)
- 13 Inamorata of Tarzan
- 18 Indispensable, in music
- 21 Introduction for an eye doctor
- 23 Instrument for lifting
- 26 "I think that I shall never see"
- 27 Inferior cars
- 28 "I give!"
- 29 Ity-bity mess.
- 30 Lie de la Cité street
- 31 Joe hockey legend
- 36 Inscribed 56
- 38 Ill-looking
- 39 Inhabitant
- 47 Inverse of "bloody"
- 48 Iced drinks
- 49 Illuminated
- 51 It spans douze miles
- 52 It's uplifting
- 54 In the rear
- 55 Impertinent
- 56 Inhuman brute
- 57 Interconnection of nerves
- 58 Item in a laundry



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Solution to Puzzle of Nov. 9



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